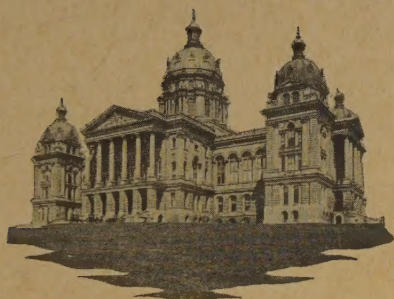


ANNALS OF IOWA

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VOL. XXI, No. 3

ANNALS OF IOWA

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ANNALS OF IOWA

VOL. XXI, No. 3 DES MOINES, IOWA, JANUARY, 1938 THIRD SERIES

ROADSIDE SETTLEMENT OF DES MOINES

BY FLORA DUNLAP¹

The Social Settlement movement began in England in the last quarter of the Nineteenth Century. It was the practical expression of the desire of some Christian students in Oxford University to share the opportunities for culture and for recreation, which they enjoyed, with people living in the poorest quarters of the city of London.

These students wished to live in a working men's district in order to become acquainted at first hand with the residents of such a district. They desired to be a personal relation, not an organization; to give, not money, but themselves; to live, not like the poor, but with the poor.

Their idea of sharing with those less fortunate was neither original nor new. It is older than the Christian era. The form in which it developed is largely due to the industrial development of a period which created great cities in which the rich and the poor, according to occupation and degree, lived in separated districts.

Toynbee Hall, located in the Whitechapel district in East London, was opened in 1885 and was the first University or Social Settlement. The movement soon spread, not only in England, but in the United States as well.

University Settlement in New York, with Stanton Coit as Head Resident, was opened in 1888, and in the same year Jane Addams and Ellen Starr founded Hull House in Chicago. Both Miss Addams and Mr. Coit had visited or worked in Toynbee Hall.

¹Much of the data included in the story of Roadside Settlement from the formation of the first King's Daughters Circle in 1887 to 1906 is taken from an article prepared about 1920 by Mrs. J. C. Hume, but not published.—F. D.

FIRST STEPS

Most of the earlier Settlements in both England and the United States were in crowded districts in the larger cities. In the United States such districts were almost always those in which great numbers of foreign born people, often recent immigrants, lived. Thus it is rather surprising that one of the earlier Social Settlements is in Des Moines, Iowa, a city of approximately thirty-five thousand people in 1888, far from seaports and with no large group of foreign born residents.

Roadside Settlement's beginning goes back, as does the beginning of Toynbee Hall and of so many other Social Settlements, to a religious impulse, though the impulse was non-sectarian and was called philanthropic or humanitarian rather than religious.

As early as 1887 a Circle of King's Daughters was formed in the Presbyterian Church of Des Moines. This Circle took as its definite piece of social work a sewing school for poor children. Other Circles were formed in other churches, each of which undertook a particular project; flower mission, distributing flowers to sick persons in hospitals and poorer homes; relief, the giving of food and clothing to needy persons and families; a day nursery in the basement of a church where the King's Daughters themselves cared for small children while the mothers went out to work.

Presently, all these Circles organized into the King's Daughters Union. The Union, among other activities, arranged for a mass meeting which resulted later in the organization of the Associated Charities of Des Moines. This organization was to become later the Family Welfare Society, and when this is written, December, 1937, is a section of the Polk County Emergency Relief Administration.

In 1894 the King's Daughters Union rented a house on Fourth Street where the New Savery Hotel now stands. In this house all the activities of the different Circles were centered, each Circle continuing to be responsible for its particular project.

Soon after this, Percy Alden, who organized Mansfield House Settlement in London, was lecturing at Grinnell Col-

lege. Charles E. Lynde of Des Moines met and talked with him there about social welfare and social settlements. Graham Taylor, founder of Chicago Commons Settlement, was lecturing at this same period in Des Moines chautauquas. There members of the King's Daughters Union heard Dr. Taylor's lectures on social welfare and the new Settlement movement. These young women talked with Mr. Lynde and with Dr. Taylor about establishing a social settlement in Des Moines.

As a result of these talks and of many conferences and discussions the King's Daughters Union, in September, 1896, rented half of a double brick house at the corner of Eighth and Mulberry Streets, and Mr. Lynde and his mother became the first residents.

In the first settlements the person in charge was called Head Worker; later Head Resident was the title used; and now Director or Resident Director is the usual title.

Except for the kitchen range, the new settlement house was mostly furnished with the cast off belongings of the King's Daughters' families and friends. Funds for its maintenance were raised by various methods; members' dues, gifts, sales, and by suppers, which were then, and often still are, one of the chief methods used by women's organizations for raising funds. Mrs. Sara Wharton Moore, a member of one of the Circles, was a famous cook, and the suppers which she supervised for the Settlement were always well attended and well worth the twenty-five cents which was the usual rate for suppers.

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Lynde received a salary. They remained in charge through a part of the second year and were followed by Miss Hanson, the first paid resident who received what would seem now a beggarly salary.

Dr. A. L. Frisbie, pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, read at one of his Sunday services a poem by Sam Walter Foss called "The House by the Side of the Road". This poem, based on a line in one of the books of Homer's *Iliad* in which a hero "lived by the side of the road and was a friend to man", suggested the name Roadside Settlement and the name was adopted.

In the fall of 1897, Miss Clara Adams became Head Resi-

dent. Miss Adams was a woman with a rare endowment for friendship and sympathy. The activities of the Settlement prospered and Miss Adams made many friends. But the financing of the undertaking grew steadily more difficult.

After a particularly discouraging report as to the state of the treasury, the continuance or the discontinuance of the Settlement was debated. Once there was a majority vote to close the house and give up the whole project. After the vote was taken the discussion went on. Presently, someone suggested that a new Board of Directors be formed, made up of both men and women. This would increase the number of persons directly responsible, for then, as now, men were often able to raise more money for charitable or philanthropic purposes with seemingly less work than women.

A group of brave and sympathetic men were enlisted, and in February, 1899, the Roadside Settlement House Association was incorporated. Those who signed the Articles of Incorporation were: Sarah W. Moore, Martha C. Frisbie, Juliet E. Read, Ida R. Faylor, Emma W. Whisenand, Angie H. Hume, Alice Bailey, Virginia H. Reichard, Ida Cummins, Florence Ginn, Clara Adams, Gertrude Getchell, Ruth Gatch, Fanny Bailey, James B. Weaver, Jr., Samuel A. Merrill, Walter A. Coffin, Lewis Slye, C. P. Huntington, Robert Maccartney, and Henry J. Hollingsworth.

Miss Clara Adams remained as Head Resident until 1901. She was succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Weeks who had lived and worked with Dr. Taylor in Chicago Commons. Later Mr. Weeks became a member of the Des Moines Public School staff where he continues to do valuable work. Mrs. Weeks continued as Head Resident until the spring of 1904. Mrs. Lucy Bitting took charge of the work during the summer months, and in October of that year, I, Flora Dunlap, became Head Resident, a position I was to retain, except for a two years absence during the War, until 1924. When I resigned as Head Resident I was elected to the Board of Directors so that my interest in and connection with the Settlement activities has remained unbroken.

After being graduated from a private school for girls I had visited, almost by chance, Kingsley House Settlement in

Pittsburgh. I returned shortly after to serve an apprenticeship there as a volunteer worker, and following that lived for a winter in Goodrich House, Cleveland, and in Hull House, Chicago.

The fame of Hull House was already widespread, and famous men and women from other countries as well as from all over the United States were constantly coming and going there. Graham Taylor at Chicago Commons and Mary McDowell at the University of Chicago Settlement were sharing Miss Addams' fame; Harriet Vittum became Head Resident of Northwestern University Settlement a little later. Each of them was active in civic and reform fields, speaking and lecturing frequently in other parts of the country, and each dealing constantly and vigorously with the problems and the activities of their respective Houses and neighborhoods. Florence Kelly, Julia Lathrop, and Dr. Alice Hamilton, all of whom were to become nationally known later, were living and working at Hull House. It was a stimulating, an absorbing, and a bewildering place in which to live and work.

Although I was invited to remain at Hull House I preferred to live and work in a smaller city. There were no schools of social work and no placement bureaus for social workers then. Miss Addams often received letters asking for possible workers for smaller settlements. Such a letter from Mrs. J. C. Hume, President of the Board of Directors of Roadside Settlement in Des Moines, Miss Addams passed on to me. Correspondence followed and it was arranged that I should come to Roadside Settlement in 1904 as has already been said.

After living in a crowded tenement district where there was a confusion of tongues in every street crowd, the corner of Eighth and Mulberry Streets in Des Moines seemed almost a country village. Des Moines had more than doubled its population in the previous twenty years and that locality was changing rapidly from a residence district to a commercial and industrial one. Many families were moving to other parts of the city. The enrollment in the Lincoln School, a block distant, was smaller each year. The attendance in the Settlement clubs and classes was diminishing. The lease of



FLORA DUNLAP
When Serving as
Head Resident, Roadside Settlement
Des Moines

the building would expire in June, 1905. By that date Roadside Settlement must find new quarters.

NEW LOCATION

In the spring of 1903 a disastrous flood had called the attention of the city and the whole state to the southeast bottoms of Des Moines. Heavy and continuous rains in the month of May had caused the Des Moines River to rise to a hitherto unrecorded height. Flood waters had swept through this whole district leaving destruction and greatly increased poverty in their wake.

The southeast bottoms are part of an old river bed of deep infertile sand. The district had then and has now no city water supply, no public sewage disposal, no paved streets. It had been settled early by northern European immigrants, mostly Scandinavian and German with a few English, Scotch, and Irish. Many of the men were skilled artisans who worked steadily at good wages and had built comfortable homes.

One after another the railroads coming into Des Moines crossed the city at the base of the Capitol hill; switching tracks made a maze of iron rails; the southeast bottoms became a district separated from the city by a tangle of tracks on the north and by the river on the south and east. Meat packing plants located in the district had not added to its value or desirability as residence property. The more prosperous families began a movement to other parts of the city, many of them "up the hill" as the upper East Side is called. The 1903 flood accelerated this exodus. Numbers of the better homes immediately had "For Sale" signs. Even though some of the earlier settlers have remained and their homes are well kept and in good repair, the district soon became, and is now, one of cheap rents, shabby houses, and poor people.

There were no liquor saloons in the district, for a clause in an early deed prohibited the use of any land for saloons. Just north of the railroad tracks there were many saloons; one intersection had a saloon on each of the four corners; the next intersection had a saloon on each of three corners. Most of the men living in the district passed these corners

on the way to and from work. Too many of them stopped in on the way home and tarried too long.

Scott Avenue, always called Scott Street except on city street signs, was then and still is the main thoroughfare east and west. One trolley line served the district, and two cars on the line, Numbers 108 and 109, leaving the downtown terminus at half hour intervals, were famous for the frequency for which they went off schedule and off the track. Saloons closed at ten o'clock in the evening, and the tenthirty Scott street car, most particularly on Saturday night, was avoided by women and by men with sensitive stomachs and nerves.

It seemed a district where the Settlement House and Settlement House residents might be needed and helpful, and after discussion and investigation of other possible locations, land was bought at the corner of Southeast Seventh and Scott Streets and plans were drawn for a building.

Members of the Board of Directors in 1906 were: Mesdames B. F. Elbert, J. C. Hume, H. R. Howell, W. C. McArthur, F. O. Green, M. Rosenfield, N. H. Weeks, A. E. Shipley; Misses Belle M. Gilcrest, Florence Walker, Emma Harvison, Helen Witmer; Messrs. I. Friedlich, Harvey Ingham, S. A. Merrill, R. R. Rollins, H. S. Nollen, H. H. Coggeshall, C. A. Rawson, B. S. Walker, and A. M. Parker.

These members knew that it would not be easy to raise the approximate \$20,000 required for the building. This new project could be called neither religious, nor educational, nor relief giving. It was motivated by all three of these ideals, but it was not always easy to explain this to prospective contributors. However, Des Moines had then as it has now many public minded citizens who respond generously to appeals for welfare undertakings.

Mrs. Hume was the indefatigable and enthusiastic President of the Board. Four well known business men, who were also leaders in civic affairs, formed the building committee and undertook to raise the necessary funds. They were Messrs. Richard R. Rollins, Charles A. Rawson, I. Friedlich, and Buffon S. Walker.

In 1903 contributions from all over the State had been

received for the help of the residents of the flooded district of the bottoms. A balance remained in the hands of the Flood Distribution Committee and the Committee voted unanimously to give this sum for the Roadside building. It would thus be used for the benefit of the people for whom the money had been given.

There were two gifts of five hundred dollars each and one of four hundred. These amounts were much more considerable gifts in 1905 than the same sum would seem today. There were a dozen two hundred and fifty dollar gifts, and fifty or sixty gifts ranging from one hundred and fifty dollars down to one hundred dollars. Many others, equally welcome and appreciated, were from fifty dollars on down.

The committeemen were interested and persuasive, other members of the Board of Directors helped with the solicitations, and the amount was pledged. Ground was broken in the fall of 1905, and the building was ready for occupancy in June, 1906.

The house was crowded with people from the neighborhood and from all over the city on the opening evening. Very few Settlements of this period had the good fortune to be housed in new buildings. Many of them were in blighted districts, housed in what were once fine residences. Roadside Settlement had the great advantage of a building constructed for specific use as a social settlement, and for the use and benefit of the people of the district in which it was located.

EQUIPMENT AND ACTIVITIES

The building contains an auditorium seating about three hundred and fifty people, then used also as a gymnasium; rooms equipped for a Day Nursery; a room for a general office, one for a library, and two other rooms used for clubs or classes. In the basement there were public baths for men and women; a public wash house to which women might bring their laundry and for a small fee have the use of tubs, hot and cold water, and steam driers. Although city water was not generally available, a supply was secured for Roadside, also a septic tank for sewage disposal was constructed. The basement contained also the heating plant. One end of

the building was fitted as an apartment with living quarters for Settlement residents.

The public baths were popular immediately. A twelve year old boy appeared early the first evening after the opening, inquired about a shower bath, proffered the correct fee, took a long shower, and departed. He reappeared in twenty minutes with a companion. The two boys took long showers and departed. Both returned twenty minutes later with a third boy. All three offered the correct fee of five cents and the showers ran even longer. We were so alarmed at this orgy of bathing on the part of the first boy and so uncertain how often he might return that evening that when the three emerged with smiling and shining faces we said that the house was about to close for the night. The baths were soon being used by several hundred persons each month.

There was a good deal of discussion among Board members as to the usefulness of a public wash house. Would American women, unlike European ones, be willing to do the family washing in public? Members of the City Federation of Womens Clubs discussed the question. When the difficulties and the hazards to health of washing and drying clothing in small houses occupied by large families, often including small children, were considered, the Federation voted five hundred dollars to be used for laundry equipment.

Four sets of two tubs each with facilities for boiling the clothing with steam in one of the tubs of each set, and steam driers, were installed. Although not many women came the first year, the number gradually increased. One woman has washed in the same tubs each Monday morning, with but few absences, for nearly thirty years. Other women have records of twenty and fifteen years, on down to casual and transient patrons who come occasionally or for only a few times. On a recent Monday twenty-eight women completed and took home twenty-eight family washings. This is the top record for any one day. There is no question but that the public wash house has been one of Roadside's most useful assets.

The Day Nursery was closed when the lease expired on the Mulberry Street house, to be opened when the new house

opened. Three children were admitted to the new Day Nursery before the remainder of the building was ready for use because the mothers could not go to work unless the children could be cared for, and others followed quickly.

When gymnasium classes and teams were formed in the fall of 1906 they were immediately crowded in the late afternoons and evenings with boys and young men. Periods were reserved for smaller groups of girls and women. Our basketball teams won every match game the first season, either by the umpire's decision or by a fight outside before the visiting team departed. When no new teams applied for games and experienced teams refused return games, we won fewer games, but better play as well as a better spirit was established, except on occasions of extreme provocation.

The Utility Club, a group of women organized in the Settlement when it was located on Mulberry Street, resumed meetings when the new house was opened, and many women living in the new locality became members. At this time the Utility Club has about sixty members and meets weekly in the Settlement House from October to June. Its programs have covered many subjects and a wide range of activities. For a number of years a play or a pageant was given by the members each year, and the front rows were always filled with husbands and children, thrilled and delighted at the sight of mother on the stage. The Club has made many gifts to Roadside, has much influence in the neighborhood, and has been for a long time a member of the Des Moines City Federation of Women's Clubs.

Classes in sewing, cooking, and manual training were carried on for some years in cooperation with the Des Moines School Board, and our auditorium was used as a kindergarten for one year. The East and West Side of Des Moines had been separate school districts until 1906, when they were united. The East Side school buildings were not as fully equipped as the West Side ones, and the Settlement housed one or another of these public school classes for a few years. When the East Side buildings were enlarged and equipped, these classes were transferred to the school buildings.

A station of the Public Library was installed in the Settlement House very soon. Fewer than two hundred books were

circulated the first year, and a discouraging number were mislaid or lost. In 1936, however, the circulation was 12,060 volumes, and the percentage of loss no greater than in the average library station.

Clubs and classes for both boys and girls and for young men and women were organized as the need arose or the desire was expressed, such as; story hours for children, classes in handcraft, in dramatics, chorus singing, dancing, etc.

From the beginning the House has been open to negroes, either in separate groups, or with the younger children, sometimes in mixed groups. It has not always been easy to maintain fair play and to avoid clashes, but the house is still open to both races.

MORE ROOM NEEDED

The House had been used but a few years until it was evident that the building was much too small. A cottage on the Settlement ground next door was remodeled by a group of young women who formed the Roadside Day Nursery Board and undertook the maintenance and management of the Day Nursery. In 1913 this Board purchased a larger house at Ninth and Scott Streets, two blocks distant, remodeled it, and fitted it in a modern way for a Day Nursery. Five years later the Day Nursery again became a department of the Settlement.

The cottage vacated by the Day Nursery was turned into what we called the Model Cottage. Older girls and young women belonging to Settlement clubs planned, purchased, and placed the simple and inexpensive furnishings. After this practical experience in furnishing a home, courses were given there in housekeeping, sweeping, dusting, making beds, sewing, cooking, etc. Groups of employed girls used the house in the evenings for supper clubs and often entertained friends there.

In 1912, encouraged by two bequests, one from Mr. R. S. Wellslager, whose daughter, Mrs. J. D. Whisenand, was one of the signers of the Articles of Incorporation and who remains a loyal friend of Roadside, and the second from Mr. Edward A. Temple, a Committee again undertook the raising

of funds for a separate gymnasium building and for an addition to the main building. Mr. C. A. Rawson, whose interest in the boys and young men of the neighborhood never flagged, again headed the Committee and again all the Board members helped.

The new gymnasium was erected near the main building and was completed and used in the fall of 1913. An addition to the auditorium, almost doubling its size, three new club rooms, and additional space for baths and laundry were added to the main building.

Two power washers, an extractor for partly drying clothing, and four new sets of tubs were added to the laundry equipment. It was these mechanical improvements which evoked from a foreign born neighbor accustomed to physical exertion the remark, "Vimmen nowadays is so veak they can no longer vash on a vash board".

There was great rejoicing among the laundry patrons over the additional space and equipment, and even more rejoicing among the boys and men using the gymnasium as well as in the groups using the auditorium who had found the former one too small for the plays, entertainments, and dances which were constantly being given there.

WOMEN "BY THE DAY"

There were comparatively few women working in factories or other industries when Roadside Settlement moved to the southeast bottoms. The majority of the children in the Day Nursery were more or less irregular attendants because most of the mothers were employed "by the day" in homes. It was before the era of mechanical and electrical household appliances, and the demand for laundresses and cleaning women was constant. Roadside soon had an active employment bureau for women day workers. At one time there were one hundred and fifty women on the employment list, a few of them living outside the neighborhood. We tried very diligently to impress on all the women who registered with us that good work was expected, that appointments must be kept, etc. We tried having a class with practical demonstrations of how to do good laundry work. It developed that practically every woman

on our list thought herself a good laundress who needed no further instruction.

Presently a group of these women formed a Union of Women Day Workers and applied to the Iowa Federation of Labor for a charter, which was granted. The usual wage had been one dollar per day of indefinite hours, plus lunch and carfare. The Union raised the wage to one dollar and fifty cents per day of eight hours, plus lunch and carfare. There was a protest from many employers. They said in person and over the telephone, "A good woman is worth a dollar and fifty cents a day, but hardly any of them are that good." Few employers asked to see the Union card and women from all over the city who knew nothing of the Union but the name and the wage scale claimed to be members.

The Union could do but little to standardize the work of its members, because, they argued, their employers were not standardized. Some ladies wanted clothes rinsed twice; some ladies wanted more bluing and less starch, others more starch and less bluing; some ladies insisted on floors being wiped up on hands and knees while others were satisfied with a long handled mop. A very irate man telephoned that in his wife's absence a Union member had charged him three dollars for a day's work. The offending member was called in and reproached for overcharging. "Law, Miss!" she said, "that man, he's just so easy. I just mentioned three dollars and he handed it to me. I was that surprised it never entered my head to hand part of it back."

After a few years the Union disintegrated. Gradually the use of mechanical equipment, the increasing number of families living in apartments, and the increasing efficiency and decreasing cost of commercial laundries crowded many women out of day work. Roadside still has a short list of "by the day" workers, but there are comparatively few calls for their services.

FAMILY DESERTION

In 1904, when Roadside was still on Mulberry Street, a woman came in to complain that her husband had deserted her and their several small children and that although living

in the next street, he refused to contribute in any way to the support of his family.

The lawyer member of the Board of Directors, when appealed to for advice, found to his surprise that the Iowa code provided no legal way of compelling support. At the instance of members of the Roadside Board, a bill was introduced into the 1905 session of the Iowa Legislature making support mandatory, but it failed of passage. Two years later such a bill was enacted and the number of family desertions in our neighborhood and all over the State greatly decreased. We had found on investigation that out of thirty-six families represented at that time in the Day Nursery, twenty-six had been deserted by the husband and father. There was need for the new law.

JEWISH BRANCH

There were in 1906, and are now, but few Jewish people living in the Roadside neighborhood. A considerable number of Jewish immigrants were coming into Des Moines in the first decade of 1900, many of them locating on the East Side where there was already a group of earlier arrivals. They lived too far from Roadside Settlement to be regular visitors there.

Mr. I. Friedlich, a member of the Jewish community, had been an active member of the committee which collected the funds for the Roadside building to which many Jewish people contributed generously. Mr. Friedlich was a very well known and highly regarded citizen, a member of Roadside Board of Directors, and a member of many other civic and philanthropic committees.

In 1907 Mr. Friedlich suggested that Roadside Settlement undertake some welfare activities in the neighborhood in which these recently arrived people lived. Mr. Friedlich, Rabbi Eugene Mannheimer, and I were constituted a committee to consider and advise with others as to whether such work should be undertaken.

An account of the opening of the Jewish Community Center and its present work will be found on another page of this number of *THE ANNALS*. (See page 182).

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

In 1906 Roadside Settlement had one of the few telephones in the southeast bottoms. Inevitably and properly it became a very public telephone, in use both day and night. The police officer on the beat, at our request, had a key to the building and reported hourly through the night over our telephone. Our neighbors seemed to have no hesitation in using the phone either, waking us at any hour of the night to report cases of sudden illness or any other emergency in their families. We were constantly asked to help in sickness and while we were willing to visit sick persons, even in the middle of the night, none of us were trained or experienced in bedside nursing.

In 1909 a group of Des Moines women organized the Visiting Nurses Association. The first visiting nurse as well as her two successors lived in the Settlement House, and for four years I acted as Supervisor of the work of the Association.

In 1911 Mr. Buffon S. Walker and Mr. Harvey Ingham, members of the Roadside Board, secured an appropriation from the Polk County Board of Supervisors for the salary of a second nurse. The work and the staff increased, and in 1913 Miss Ada Hershey, the present able and successful executive head, became Superintendent of the Visiting Nurses Association, now called the Public Health Nursing Association and employing a staff of twenty-eight nurses.

In 1913 Mr. Walker and Mr. C. A. Rawson secured the establishment of the first city playground at Southeast Sixth and Allen Streets, a block east of the Settlement. An organization of women had opened a playground earlier than this at the junction of the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers on the West Side, but the Allen Playground was the first one established by the city. It was a small plot of ground, but it was the first of the many larger and better equipped playgrounds now open in Des Moines, which, under the skilled and efficient direction of Miss Kathryn Krieg, are used by great numbers of children and older people as well.

In 1914 members of the Roadside Settlement Board of Directors invited the presidents and executive officers of the welfare agencies of the city to a dinner meeting at the Settlement House. About forty persons were present and Mr.

George Kennerdell of Cleveland talked of the Welfare Bureau, or Community Chest organizations, of which Cleveland had one of the earliest. A plan for a Welfare Bureau for Des Moines was discussed but no action toward forming one was taken at that time.

WORLD WAR ACTIVITIES

Settlements everywhere found their activities greatly changed and increased in the war years. In foreign speaking neighborhoods the Settlement residents and the public school teachers were often the only persons able to interpret the war regulations to the foreign born groups, and in turn interpret the foreign born groups to those in charge of war activities.

A service flag with one hundred and six stars hung in the Settlement House, representing that number of boys who had gone from Roadside clubs and athletic teams into the Army and the Navy. Members of the staff wrote letters, looked up addresses, and made inquiries for many anxious fathers and mothers.

The Settlement building was used regularly and frequently for the activities of War Camp Community Service groups.

In the epidemic of flu which followed the close of the War in 1918 some of the residents gave almost full time to volunteer nursing in the neighborhood as well as preparing soup and other food in large quantities for sick people.

POST WAR YEARS

Three years after the initial discussion held at Roadside in 1914, the Des Moines Public Welfare Board, now the Community Chest, was established by the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, and for a number of years was a Department of the Chamber. It is no longer a Department, but the Chamber of Commerce still elects one-third of the members of the Community Chest Board of Directors. Since 1917 Roadside Board members and staff have worked for the collection of funds for all the welfare agencies included in the Community Chest instead of for Roadside Settlement alone.

The Central Presbyterian and the Central Christian churches of Des Moines have each maintained branch churches in southeast Des Moines for many years. There is now a new

Negro Baptist Church in the district. There have been many missions or religious organizations of various sects for both negro and white people located in the southeast bottoms, most of them of temporary existence.

Bethany Church, the branch of the Central Presbyterian Church, recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its opening and the long period of continuous attendance and support of many members of the Central Church. Charles R. Chase, a most generous citizen, was particularly interested in the Bethany Sunday School. Through his continuing interest in the boys who year after year were brought into his class at Bethany, many of them now fill positions of honor and usefulness in Des Moines.

Roadside has had always friendly and cooperative relations with these neighborhood churches, and for many years either I or some member of the resident Roadside staff taught a class in the Bethany Sunday School.

Since 1918 a lunch room has been maintained for children of the two nearby public schools. Children who would otherwise have a scant and cold mid-day meal may obtain a hot dish of food for five cents and may supplement the main dish for one or two additional pennies. Needless to say the lunch room is not entirely self supporting.

The needs of the people of the Roadside neighborhood have greatly increased in the recent depression years. Many men and women usually employed were unable to find work, and those who were in better times not always fully employed became entirely dependent on relief.

A sewing room was established at Roadside in 1932 where women of the neighborhood might remake and repair garments contributed by more fortunate families and receive credit for their work. This credit was not in money but could be used for the purchase of garments which a woman herself had put in repair, or of garments put in condition by other workers. This work room has been so successful that it is now a permanent feature of the House.

A cobbler was employed also in 1932 to teach men and boys to cobble shoes, and the same method of exchange of work

was used as in the sewing room. Within a few years several hundreds of pairs of shoes have been resoled and reconditioned.

Small fees are collected from those using the Settlement House for some of the services such as; lunch room, laundry, baths, motion picture programs, etc. The fees received have averaged over the years about thirteen percent of the whole budget. The remainder of the required budget is received from the Des Moines Community Chest and from gifts of friends for special undertakings.

Bequests received in addition to those from Mr. R. S. Wellslager and Mr. E. A. Temple, mentioned earlier in this article, have included a second from Mr. Wellslager, one from Mr. S. A. Merrill, one of the signers of the Article of Incorporation, and recently one from Mrs. J. L. Sheuerman who was for many years a useful and valued member of the Board of Directors.

The number of social settlements in the United States has not increased greatly in recent years, but the aims and purposes and the programs of the early Settlements have been largely taken over and carried on by Community Centers. One of the essentials of the settlements was residence in the neighborhood by some members of the staff. Easier and faster methods of transportation, the very great increase in the number and variety of social welfare organizations and services, the opinion of many teachers of social service technique that workers should not live in the building where their work is carried on, all have made the Community Center rather than the Social Settlement the modern name for a center for neighborhood activities. Directors of the Des Moines Community Centers, however, have generally maintained their residences in their respective center houses.

When Roadside Settlement was incorporated in 1899, only four of the agencies now included in the Des Moines Community Chest were in existence. Two of these were relief giving, the third a childrens home finding society, the fourth character and religious. The twenty-six welfare agencies now in the Chest are classified as Relief, Health, Child Welfare, and Character Building. Through its varied activities Road-

side qualifies in part for each of these classifications. The average citizen in Des Moines contributes to the Community Chest, and the average citizen believes that material relief, health, child welfare, and character building agencies give services which the community as a whole owes to the members of the community who need and use such services. The average citizen knows also that such services are essential ones not only for humanitarian and social welfare reasons, but are essential in order that all the members of the community may be protected from the danger and the hazards which neglect of any one of these community responsibilities entails.

The young women who in 1899 reluctantly relinquished their identity as the King's Daughters Union in order to establish more firmly the permanence of the organization which they had initiated, set a high standard for the future management and support of Roadside Settlement. The men and women who signed the Articles of Incorporation and became members of the first Board of Directors accepted the responsibility knowing the labor which such responsibility entailed.

Successive Boards of Directors, which have included representatives of the three great divisions of religious faith, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jewish, have maintained a high standard of responsibility for, and of interest in, the work of the Settlement and in the welfare of those who are participants in Roadside's many activities.

The present members of the Board of Directors are: Messrs. Wm. F. Riley, C. A. Crosser, Alex Fitzhugh, Luther L. Hill, Harvey Ingham, E. Hulbert Mulock, Gerard Nollen, Albert J. Robertson, Rudolph Weitz; Mesdames Earl Linn, John Cowles, Charles A. Dewey, Sam Elbert, Harry Ginsberg, Gerard Nollen, Meyer Rosenfield; Dr. Frank R. Holbrook, Dr. Walter Kirch, and Miss Flora Dunlap.

The Resident Directors of Roadside Settlement and their terms of service are: Mr. Charles E. Lynde 1896-1897; Miss Clara Adams 1897-1901; Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Weeks 1901-1904; Mrs. Lucy Bitting 1904; Miss Flora Dunlap 1904-1916; Miss Mary Burd 1916-1918; Miss Flora Dunlap 1918-1924; Miss Kathryn Glerum 1924-1927; Miss Edith Gill 1927-1932; Miss Dorothy E. Johnson 1932-1937; Miss Harriet Rietveld 1937—.

Two others who have been members of the Roadside staff for a longer period than any but one of the Resident Directors are Mrs. Minnie Allan who was for nearly twenty years Matron of the Roadside Day Nursery and gave to all the children who came and went through the Nursery doors impartial care and affectionate attention. The other is Jean Taylor, whose service began as an occasional helper about 1920, and who has carried many responsibilities and acted as Director-in-charge during summer vacations and other absences of Directors since 1924. Mrs. Taylor is still a member of the staff.

I wish there were space to give the names of staff members who have lived and worked in Roadside Settlement for longer and shorter periods; the names of representatives of the Public Library, the Public School Board, the Public Health Nursing Association, the Playground Commission, the Juvenile Court, the Junior League, the Works Progress Administration who have recently given such valuable service and who have been a part of the Settlement staff; the names of volunteer workers whose services have been so many and so valued, and of the men and women not only in Des Moines, but elsewhere in Iowa, who have given so generously of money and of friendly help and counsel. All these have been a part of Roadside's usefulness and of its services to its neighborhood and to the city. Its growth has continued for fifty years if the years are counted since the first Circle of King's Daughters was formed, or thirty-eight years since the Articles of Incorporation were signed. A whole number of THE ANNALS would be needed to contain the names of all the Board members and of all the friends and helpers of these years, each of whom has a rightful place in the Settlement history.

For all of them the reward, if reward is needed other than in the "joy of doing", is the number of children now grown to manhood and womanhood, with children of their own, who are fine and useful citizens and who recognize or who say, "Roadside taught me this, or that", or "Roadside started me right."

Or again if reward is needed, and it is not needed, for "the joy was in the giving", it is in the memory of the burdened

and depressed men and women who came to Roadside for information, for advice, for help, for the mere comfort of talking to a friendly neighbor, and thus lightening their burdens by putting them into words.

All the plans made through the years have not been carried out. There have been mistakes and discouragements. Much that was hoped for is as yet not accomplished. Vision outruns achievement. Nevertheless, a house stands "by the side of the road" in southeast Des Moines in which those who built it endeavored, and those who live in it endeavor, to be "a friend to man."

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

In 1907 a committee consisting of Rabbi Eugene Mannheimer, Mr. I. Friedlich, and Miss Flora Dunlap, Head Resident of Roadside Settlement, made a study of the number and the place of residence of the more recent foreign born Jewish arrivals in Des Moines.

It was found that Bremer School, located at East Second and Des Moines Streets, had a large number of Jewish children enrolled, and, after much consultation with other interested persons, it was agreed that some activities for Jewish people should be inaugurated in the Bremer School neighborhood. Miss Dunlap undertook the general supervision of the new project which was called the Jewish Branch of Roadside Settlement. Miss Anette Mann, a Jewish social worker, was employed and took up residence in Roadside Settlement.

The first need of these Jewish people who, with other races and nationalities, were coming to the United States in such large numbers during these years, seemed to be instruction in the English language. For like most of our foreign immigrants, these people found that their major difficulty was an almost total ignorance of the tongue of their adopted country. This ignorance was an obstacle to, and made even more difficult, the acquaintance with, the adjustment to, and the assimilation of American customs and traditions so necessary if our Melting Pot was and is to produce citizens of the heart and not merely of residence.

The Des Moines School Board gave the use of rooms in the Bremer School building, where in October, 1907, evening classes in English were opened in which any foreign born adult might enroll. One hundred and fourteen men and women enrolled the first evening! About half of them were Jewish and the others were from various European countries.

For the first year instruction was given entirely by Miss Mann and a corps of volunteer teachers. The second year a supervisor, Miss Ida Jacobs, a member of its regular teaching staff, was provided by the Des Moines School Board. The third year not only Miss Jacobs continued as supervisor, but two other teachers were provided by the School Board.

The students were so eager to learn and the attendance so large and regular that other subjects were added to English. Later on the instructional classes were moved to the East High School building and the maintenance and teaching part of this phase of the project was taken over entirely as part of the public school system.

From this small beginning by a private agency thirty years ago, there gradually developed the present adult evening school program of the Des Moines School Board, which now includes a very wide range of subjects, taught by a large staff of instructors, and attended by hundreds of students.

Evening educational classes were not the sole activity of the Jewish Branch. A Mother's Club, a story hour group, a sewing school, and some other informal groups, all meeting in Bremer School, were organized. The attendance and interest increased so rapidly that two years later, in 1919, through the courtesy of Mr. Frank Mattes, who gave the use of rooms on East Locust Street without charge, a gymnasium was fitted up and was used to capacity. Later on, larger quarters were secured in the rear of the Capital City Bank building and activities were carried on there.

In 1910 the Jewish Branch of Roadside Settlement became a separate organization. The Director and the activities moved into the Jewish Settlement House, a large house at the corner of East Fifth and Maple Streets put at the disposal of the new organization by Mr. Aaron Younker.

The members of the Board of Directors of the new Settle-

ment were: Mesdames A. H. Cohen, M. Becker, S. Davidson, Meyer Rosenfield, S. Weinstock; Miss Jennie Younker, Rabbi Kaplowitz, Rabbi Zeichick, Rabbi Mannheimer; Messrs. A. Friedlich, Morris Samish, J. R. Cohen, Louis Davidson, Anselm Frankel, and Morris Mandlebaum. Mr. Aaron Younker was an honorary member of the Board.

The Jewish Settlement increased in attendance, influence, and interest each year from its beginning, as the successive moves into larger quarters indicate. Like so many other districts in the growing city, the Bremer School neighborhood changed from a residence to a commercial district. The number of pupils in the school decreased. The school property became a site for a factory.

Families moved into other sections of the city, and in 1920 the Jewish Settlement also moved. A fine old home at West Eighth Street and Forest Avenue, located in a neighborhood in which a considerable number of Jewish families lived, was purchased by the Settlement Board. The house was remodeled, a gymnasium, swimming pool, auditorium, and a Talmud Torah building added. All the funds for the extensive remodeling and the additions were contributed by members of the Jewish Community, and the name was changed to Jewish Community Center.

The Jewish Community Center, like Roadside Settlement and the three other Des Moines Community Centers, now receives the major part of its budget from the Community Chest.

The Center's activities cover a wide range. A station of the Public Library is located there. The gymnasium, swimming pool, and auditorium are in constant use, and there are classes in dancing, dramatics, music, handicrafts, sewing, etc. The activities are non-sectarian, and the majority of those using the House are non-Jewish.

For the last three summers a Home Camp has been an outstanding feature of the Center's activities. A course of lectures followed by discussion and called the Community Civic Forum has been conducted since 1925. The Community Civic Forum brought annually to Des Moines well known and important speakers and lecturers, and was in part, at least, the

inspiration for the city wide Forums later inaugurated by the Des Moines School Board under a grant from the Carnegie Corporation to the American Association for Adult Education.

The present members of the Board of Directors are: Mesdames Saul Davidson, A. I. Blotcky, S. Weinstock, Harry Ginsberg, M. L. Kahn, Sam Abramson, Nathan Frankel; Rabbi Eugene Mannheimer, Rabbi Monroe Levens; Messrs. Robert Lappen, Ben Sherman, Harry Goldman, L. H. Cohen, M. O. Kohn, Sol Panor, A. H. Blank, Burton Joseph, Ben Hurwitz, Ellis Levitt, and Louis Adelman.

The Directors have been: Annette Mann 1907-1908; Mildred A. Coffman 1908-1909; Rosetta Stone 1909-1910; Caroline Morrell 1911-1912; Sadie Block 1912 (three months only on account of illness); Faye Biederman 1912-1925; Julia B. Mayer 1925—.

SOUTH SIDE COMMUNITY HOUSE

The South Side Community House was established in 1919. While the distance between South Side Community House and Roadside Settlement House is not great, they are separated by the Des Moines River, and serve communities quite unlike in background and tradition.

At the close of the War a group of Des Moines citizens made application to the National Catholic War Council for funds to establish a Community Center in Des Moines. A survey was made as to the need for a Center and as to its location. Funds were granted by the Council for the purchase of the Knights of Columbus hut at Fort Des Moines and for its removal and reconstruction at 1204 Indianola Road, which is in a district largely made up of people of Italian birth or parentage.

During the period of reconstruction of the building, class organization work was carried on in a small cottage adjoining the present building under the direction of Miss Anita Dapalonia. For the first six months the National Catholic War Council financed the project, and the National Council of Catholic Women for the next six months. In 1920 the Center became one of the agencies financed by the Des Moines Community Chest.

The members of the first Board of Directors were: Mrs. L. C. Kurtz, Chmn.; Mrs. M. J. Scanlon, First Vice Chmn.; Mrs. F. E. Haley, Second Vice Chmn.; Mrs. Geo. W. Tones, Secretary; Mesdames R. H. Delmege, Anna McBride, Nate Kendall; Misses Stella McGuire, Alice Eaton; Messrs. C. B. Condon, John A. Cavanagh, Frank P. Flynn, and J. H. Cownie.

The South Side Community House is used constantly by groups of children, young people, and older ones as well, and strives to serve each adequately in the activities it provides. A community evening program with moving pictures is offered once a week during the winter. A station of the Public Library housed in the building serves patrons of all ages, while the Well Baby Clinic, maintained by the Public Health Nursing Association, serves parent and child alike. The Community House also has public shower bath facilities.

The South Side Community House has a surfaced indoor playground which is popular during the winter. In the summer staff members of the city playground nearby help the settlement children to carry on summer activities. Gymnasium and basketball teams, having a large membership, use the auditorium for practice and games. Troops of Boy and Girl Scouts also meet in the building. There are classes in handcraft, dramatic art, choral work, story telling, sewing, folk dancing, etc.

The members of the present Board of Directors are: Mrs. Louis C. Kurtz, President; Mesdames F. E. Haley, Geo. Tones, Walter L. Seeburger, Joseph Muelhaupt, Anna McBride; Miss Stella McGuire; Messrs. C. B. Condon, John H. Cownie; and Judge Thos. J. Guthrie.

The Executive Directors and their terms of office are: Anita Dapalonia 1919-1921; Gertrude Piefer 1921-1924; Alice May 1924-1927; Helen Dower Kavanagh 1927-1937; Helen Schmitz 1937—.

NEGRO COMMUNITY CENTER

A group of citizens organized the War Recreation Board of Des Moines in September, 1917. Six months later the name of this corporation was changed to War Camp Community Center, and still later to Community Service.

In addition to other activities, the War Camp Community Service organized a club for Negro officers and enlisted men in the old Lincoln School building at West Ninth and Mulberry Streets. The Community Chest allotted some money for the support of war time recreation activities and included in this the club in the Lincoln School building. When the War closed, this club continued under the name of Community Service and was given the use of Franklin School at Thirteenth and Crocker Streets, which was no longer used for school purposes.

In 1926 when the Franklin School building was removed to make way for changes in the street, Community Service again moved, this time only a few blocks, to a large house at 907 Fifteenth Street, once a private residence. In 1933 the name was changed to Negro Community Center.

A station of the Public Library and a Well Baby Clinic of the Public Health Nursing Association are housed in the Center. A number of Negro clubs, cooperative and fraternal groups, including Junior and Senior Federation of Colored Womens Clubs, church and patriotic organizations, use the House as a meeting place. In one year one hundred and twenty-five such groups held meetings there in addition to the activities carried on by the Center.

The activities carried on in the Center by the Director and a fine staff of volunteer workers, including recently the most welcome members of the Works Progress Administration, include: Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Bluebirds, handcraft, music, and recreational activities for children and young people. The Director and her family live in the Center and the Director, like all residents of Settlements and Centers, is on call every hour of the day. The building is in constant use afternoon and evenings by a large number of people and very greatly needs more room. The greatest need is for a large hall or auditorium.

For a number of years the Center has had an annual Art Exhibit in the Public Library of work produced by members.

The Board of Directors in the past has generally included both white and Negro persons. This is true of the present Board which is composed of: Rev. J. T. Mordy, Chairman;

Mesdames Walter Wilson, Sam Weinstock, Harvey Ingham, Sam M. Shloss; Messrs. Casper Schenck, Don McGregor, A. A. Alexander, Harry E. Wilson, John Normile, and H. J. Kroeger.

The Resident Directors and their terms of service have been as follows: Herbert Wright 1918-1924; Wilder Moore 1924-1926; Mrs. A. Lillian Edmunds 1926—.

NEGRO COMMUNITY CENTER BRANCH

The largest group of Negroes in Des Moines live in the district in which the Negro Community Center is situated. Another group of considerable size lives on the East Side. Desiring a place where those living on the East Side might meet together, a group of Negro men and women secured a house at 1622 Walker Street, and in 1922 opened the East Side Community Center. The Center served mainly as a meeting place for clubs or groups already organized. Many mothers in the neighborhood, wishing their babies to have the services of a Well Baby Clinic, had taken their babies to the Negro Community Center on the West Side. These mothers, together with other women, asked the Public Health Nursing Association to open a clinic in the East Side Community Center, and thirty-five babies were enrolled on the opening day in 1933.

By means of the support of interested private individuals, the East Side Community Center served its community for five years as an independent institution. However, in the third and fourth years small grants from the Community Chest for coal and rent were required. In 1936 maintenance of the work was taken over by the Community Chest entirely; in the same year the name was changed to Negro Community Center Branch and new quarters were established at 1438 Buchanan Street. The Negro Community Center Board of Directors (see page 187) is responsible for the conduct of the Branch. Miss Roberta L. Maupin is now in charge of the Branch.

A station of the Public Library is located in the building.

Classes in handcraft are carried on. A chorus class and other groups of children, young people, and older ones as well, meet regularly in the Center.

The great need of the Branch, as of the Negro Community Center, is for more room and better equipment to carry on services which are so much needed and so greatly appreciated by those who use the Center. It is greatly to be desired that Des Moines may in the near future provide better and more adequate meeting places for its Negro citizens and their children.

The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, before which is weekly read a lecture upon the various subjects of the day, though lately established, is progressing and bids fair to become what its title indicates. . . . Last night Dr. Reynolds (a gentleman lately arrived from the east, who designs opening a high school in this city) delivered the second lecture of the course, "on the goodness of God as displayed in the science of Chemistry." The discourse was an instructive one, though of but little interest, as most of the experiments failed, in consequence perhaps of the derangement necessarily attending a removal of his apparatus, which is extensive.—*Bloomington Herald*, December 4, 1840. "Argus", in a regular letter from Burlington.

THE DEMOCRATS HAVE LOST the privilege of voting against Mr. Clay, the whig candidate for President, and to whom the "settlers on the Black Hawk Purchase" owe a debt that should be paid. The vote of Iowa might have turned the scale against Mr. Clay—yet, for want of that vote, he may become President over the people he has bitterly branded as "Club-Law Men"—"Lawless Banditti"—and "Land Pirates!"—*Iowa Territorial Gazette and Advertiser*, September 17, 1842.

HISTORY OF COMMUNITY HOUSE SIOUX CITY, IOWA

(This article was prepared from data collected by a special committee of the Community House Board. It was written and edited by Miss Mabel F. Hoyt, head of the Adult Education Department of Community House.—Ed.)

History is written on a framework of dates and epochs, on source documents and maps. Settlement houses are built in neighborhoods by magnetic personalities who possess the power to give a vital philosophy to a community, and if this combination of personalities and ideals is successful, the settlement house, whether it be Hull House in Chicago or the Henry Street Settlement in New York, may widen its sphere of influence from the provincial neighborhood to the ends of the earth. As scenes shift and time moves on, a neighborly attitude in the minds of many individuals may change the complexion of history.

One of the settlement houses which is making an imprint on the social history of the middle west is Community House in Sioux City, Iowa. Its success can be attributed to a vital need for its existence, a devoted board of women who had faith in its future, and to an inspired staff who led out to new and wider fields of service.

The origins of Community House lay in the rude awakening of all the United States to the need of remedying the situations revealed by the World War, when men from every walk of life and from all localities were called to the service of their country.

The opening scene in the history of Community House in Sioux City took place in 1921. The Y. W. C. A. in Sioux City recognized that one of the grave problems revealed by the war was the need for the assimilation of a large foreign population into the life of the community. On the advice of one of the national secretaries of this organization, a survey was made and it was found that the people of certain nationalities lived very much to themselves and had little or no

contact with any other group.¹ For example, twenty-seven children of a certain nationality, born in this country, could neither speak nor understand English on entering the public schools. It was necessary to place them in a room by themselves until they were somewhat conversant with the language. This amazing situation emphasized the need of providing some opportunity for the foreign-born to meet and mingle with other groups if they and their children were to take part in community life.

On the Y. W. C. A. board at that time, Mrs. William Milchrist was serving as chairman of the Americanization committee. The need fired in her a determination to do something to meet this problem.

It was decided to establish a community house, and the Y. W. C. A., realizing that the best results would be secured if it were not under the auspices of a religious organization, turned the work over to a group of women from various sections of the city representing Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant faiths. It was conceded also by all those interested that the community house must be situated in the heart of the industrial district so that the spirit of neighborliness might be *lived*.

The district in which the new community house was to function lies at the lower eastern end of the main business district of Sioux City; it separates that district from one of the more important suburbs of the city, that in which Morningside College, a Methodist institution, is located. To the home owners of Morningside, who must pass through the region on their way to and from work, the lower east side has always been an eye-sore.

This region is itself separated from the business district of the city by two blocks of railroad tracks, which are spanned

1. There is no record as to how thorough or extensive the survey made by the Y. W. C. A. in 1921 was. Although no figures are available to show the number of persons in each of the nationality groups then living in the district later to be served by Community House, the following have been recorded in the activities of Community House: Armenian, Bohemian, Chinese, Danish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Jewish, Bulgarian, Lithuanian, Mexican, Norwegian, Persian, Polish, Rumanian, Russian, Spanish, Syrian, and the Negroes.



MARY J. TREGLIA

Exec. Sec. Community House, Sioux City

by a viaduct. The coal and lumber yards of the city are centered here, and the freight depots and warehouses as well. The Floyd River, which has played such a tragic role in the history of the neighborhood, flows through the center of the district. South of the Community House neighborhood, toward the mouth of the Floyd River, are located the large stock yards and packing houses which constitute the main industry of Sioux City.

Chiefly employed in the packing houses, Cudahy's, Swift's, or Armour's, nevertheless, all of the people in the neighborhood belong to the low income group, and are, for the most part, of foreign extraction. A large number of these steady and thrifty laborers were induced to build homes in the district because of the cheap property values, and because of attractive offers from building loan companies. Most of the

cheap frame houses in the district, however, were built by real estate investors for a low wage group, and little attention was given to the upkeep of the property. As time went on, Oemig Row and similar areas, have deteriorated into practically unlivable quarters.

A rather unique feature of the population of this area is that the people are not of one nationality group, as is sometimes the case in a foreign neighborhood, but represent twenty-one different nationalities. The area is served by three small churches: a struggling Italian Roman Catholic Mission, a starving Russian Orthodox Church, which, because of conflicting groups within the parish, calls a new priest to lead them on an average of once every six months, and a poor but spirited Negro Baptist Church.

After the decision had been made that Community House should be established in this district, all available locations were inspected by the committee. The quarters most adaptable to the purpose, and centrally located, were situated on the second floor of the two-story frame building which housed the Edwards and Browne Lumber Yards at 1604 E. 4th Street. Arrangements were made, and Community House began to take form.

In the beginning the rooms were cheerless, bare and covered with dust; but they offered possibilities and suited the needs. There were no funds, no furniture, but an abundance of faith. Mr. Browne, the landlord, gave assurance there was no need to worry about the rent until there were funds in hand. The early workers were heartened, too, by the increasing interest and co-operation promised by the citizens of Sioux City. Many individuals and organizations responded to the S. O. S. for furniture, and in a surprisingly short time the cheerless rooms were made comfortable and home-like.

On April 7, 1921, the opening meeting at Community House was held—marked by its great success and enthusiasm.

The Y. W. C. A., although it turned over the sponsorship of the Americanization project to the non-sectarian group of women, agreed to pay the first year's salary of the executive secretary who was to live at Community House and launch the program. The first secretary was Miss Dorothy Anderson.

She was a unique personality—good looking, intelligent, vivacious. She had a love of music and of beauty in all forms, and because of this recognition of universal values she made her influence felt in the neighborhood. Previous to the day on which Community House was scheduled to open, she made a thorough canvass of the neighborhood, and secured many beautiful pieces of handcraft of all sorts as well as interesting curios from foreign lands. From these she assembled a surprisingly creditable exhibit for the initial meeting. Those in charge had feared that the foreign-born people might be reluctant to come to the new Community House, but on the contrary, so many came that it was necessary to receive them in installments. The quarters proved too limited even on the first night.

The neighborhood idea caught hold and grew, and soon it was necessary to furnish Miss Anderson with an assistant. Miss Mary J. Treglia was appointed to this position in 1922. Her parents were Italian immigrants. She knew the problems of all these people in a strange land and was destined to play an important role in the years ahead.

On the walls of one of the rooms, shelves were built and served as the beginning of a library. A call went out to those who were willing to donate books to this new project of Community House. Members of the public library staff volunteered to catalogue the volumes received. Magazines were placed in the racks and the long corridor-like room between the north and south rooms took on the appearance of a library.

These were pioneer days and the growing process of Community House was not simple. Centuries of prejudice between creeds and nations could not be suddenly surmounted. It took much diplomacy to have Jews and Gentiles work together, to have Mohammedans and Christians sit at the same table, and women in clubs exchange recipes for Irish stew and Italian spaghetti.

Although creditors were sympathetic, the governing board of Community House realized that bills for rent, light and gas, and office supplies, etc., must be paid. On October 15th, 1921, a tag day was staged on the streets of Sioux City and

the proceeds from this scheme provided adequate funds to carry the expenses through all the first year. By November, 1922, the city had recognized the value of Community House as a civic enterprise and from then on, up to the present time, Community House has always been a member of and received its support from the Community Chest Fund.

Finances are always an essential factor in the maintenance program of an institution. Community House from its earliest history has worked on a small budget, but has been fortunate in having Mrs. Oscar Ruff as treasurer of the Board for practically its entire existence. Her careful planning of the budget, her sense of values, her interest in the people, and her sincere desire to have Community House serve the community to its fullest capacity perhaps accounts for the fact that the Community House has never been in debt, and yet has reached a remarkable peak of achievement.

Tribute should be paid to the first board of Community House which served so well to make its initial start a successful one. The board was composed of Mrs. William Milchrist, President; Mrs. H. P. White, Vice President; Mrs. E. J. O'Donnell, Secretary; Mrs. L. R. Manley, Treasurer; Mesdames R. H. Burton-Smith, F. L. Hutchins, T. B. Hutton, Walter Frane, J. L. Browne, Wahlstrom, Winifred Sloan, Emil Marx, Richard Zwemer, H. H. Krumann, Oscar Ruff, James Q. Keefe, and the Misses Grace Atchinson and Margaret Manley. These ladies devoted hours of service to the cause, helped teach the women American ways of dress, of cooking, and of thinking. These board women also helped to sell this neighborhood house idea to citizens of Sioux City who were at that time unaware of its existence.

Much of the success of this early period was due to Mrs. Milchrist who served as first president of the Community House Board. Her enthusiasm in the days when faith in the venture was essential, and her loyalty to Miss Anderson, the secretary, in her struggle to establish Community House, were responsible in a large measure for the settlement house weathering the early storms of uncertainty.

It is the purpose of a settlement house to offer activities to all ages and to all members of the family. The children were

drawn to the center by means of clubs and recreational organizations. A different group of little youngsters came to the playroom every afternoon. Early in the history of the House, members of the Junior League told stories, provided games, and gave instruction in handwork. These groups and clubs provided a means of keeping the children off the streets and created an environment which was wholesome and constructive. From the very beginning of its activities, Community House gave promise of justifying the faith of its founders.

In view of the fact that the Americanization program was one of the reasons for the establishment of Community House, classes were organized for those preparing to take citizenship examinations in which they might receive their preliminary training. Because so many of these people could not read nor write it was necessary to give work in primary subjects before the complex civic instruction could begin. To these classes there came for instruction a Russian priest, an Italian who worked in the slaughter room at the packing house, a Mexican worker on a railroad section gang, a German boy who had recently graduated from a German university, a woman who had been a photographer in a little village in Denmark, an Armenian who had seen his family annihilated in a Turkish massacre. These sat around the tables in the night school classes and, in the exchange of experiences and philosophies, broke down barriers, and caught new ideas.²

Because more and more people were attracted to the varied activities of Community House, it was impossible for the staff alone to take care of the entire program, so volunteers were interested in the work and assumed leadership of classes and clubs. These volunteers, after they had served a few weeks, came to the realization that they were receiving more inspiration and knowledge from this service experience, than they could ever return to these people whom they were supposed to be teaching. In 1930 the Board of Education of the Public Schools furnished a teacher for this night school.

2. The Americanization classes were held exclusively at night for the convenience of the working men at first. Later on, afternoon classes were developed for women or for those men who were not working; this occurred during the depression, about 1933.

1925 saw the beginning of changes and the entrance of Community House into a new era. In that year Miss Dorothy Anderson resigned to go into a new field of activity. Mrs. William N. Ford was chosen as the new head of the governing board of Community House. This Board elected Miss Treglia as the successor to Miss Anderson. Three years later, in 1928, Miss Arlone B. Kinkaid, who had been acting as a volunteer worker, was elected to act as Miss Treglia's assistant.

A settlement house, because it is situated in a district populated by people of low economic income, always has its finger on the pulse of social unrest. The unrest evidenced in the Community House district was largely attributable to economics factors, and conditions resultant therefrom.

Many of the residents in the neighborhood had bought property because it was cheap, had built small homes, and had paid heavy loan charges to cover the costs. Low wages in the packing house and a falling off of the employment was another cause of unrest; the tension of the threatening strikes that ran concurrent with the latter, laid upon Community House workers the strain of attempting to keep an even keel in these trying times. Then, over this district, every spring and fall, there hung the menacing fear of floods.

There has always existed the danger of floods in the spring and fall in the Sioux City region of the Floyd River valley. In some years the water would rise, but stay within the river banks, and the next year the rise would be of such a degree that the whole area would be inundated so that it would be necessary for the police and rescue workers to patrol the district in out-board motor boats, from 4th Street, which is the main thoroughfare, to 27th Street. This danger of high water was perhaps the reason for the low real estate costs, and was also responsible for a fatalistic belief in the minds of the people that complete destruction to their property was within the range of reason. It is significant that the one bright spot in this drab area is also identified with the flood. A small piece of land about $1\frac{1}{2}$ blocks square was landscaped and set aside as a park in 1921 and called Anderson Park, after Andrew Anderson, one of Sioux City's heroes who was responsible for saving 26 lives in the disastrous flood of 1892.

In 1926 Community House was called upon to take the lead in reconstructing the physical damage that was done by the disastrous flood of that year, and to re-build the morale of the people who had suffered the losses.

All of these undertones of unrest in the community's life were familiar to Community House, and more besides, due to the unique feature of its group work, which was all carried on by the case work approach. Miss Treglia soon gained the confidence of the people of the district and built up a reputation for an ability to handle difficult cases, as a result, a steady stream of individual cases was presented for her advice and consideration. The problem of an adolescent girl, or the unadjusted marital relations between husband and wife, or the question of securing employment, or the discipline problem between a foreign born parent and an Americanized son or daughter, who felt that their parents were old fashioned and uninformed . . . all these were part of the important work of the secretary.

Several interesting clubs which have had a prominent part in meeting these social-economic problems were organized in this phase in the history of Community House. The Alpha Sigma was made up of girls who had finished school and were working in offices, stores and factories, and who needed some social contacts. This club is still in existence and furnishes volunteer workers to all the activities in Community House.

The Women of All Nations Club has proved another interesting experiment, and illustrates, perhaps better than anything else, the growth of Community House. In the beginning, Miss Anderson and Miss Treglia walked the streets knocking at the doors of all the houses in the block, urging these women to come to classes and clubs. Most of them were unable to speak English and had no direct contact with the outside world. Although they reluctantly entered this new social experience, they soon learned that life was not all drudgery and that domestic problems did not have to assume such an overwhelming place. In becoming members of this Women of All Nations Club, they exchanged recipes, listened to good music, laughed with each other, and developed a spirit of courage and gained a more optimistic outlook on life. This

club, which constitutes the backbone of the family group, still is considered one of the most important groups in the Community House program.

Yet the activities of Community House were not all recreational—for it attempted also to encourage a cultural growth. The people in the neighborhood came from national and racial stocks each of which has a long and distinctive record of cultural history, and these people, as heirs of that background, possessed on the whole a deep and sincere appreciation of all the arts. Art displays from the art classes were presented in exhibits. An exquisite Chinese embroidery, a gift from two Chinese boys in the Adult Education classes, was hung on the wall of the big north room. Miss Kinkaid gave violin lessons to those who showed promise of musical ability. Clubs were organized for dramatic work, and it was a source of a great deal of pride to the district that Community House was awarded the first prize in the inter-city one-act play contest in 1931.

The program was growing by leaps and bounds. New groups were organized, and the list of volunteers who were in charge of boy and girl scout activities, homemakers, hand-craft work, dramatics, sewing, adult education, athletics, now numbered one hundred. The second floor of the frame building which housed the lumber yards was taxed to capacity. On nights of special programs, the rickety old stairs to the upper floor were so weighed down with youngsters and adults who could not get into the crowded rooms, that those in charge held their breath lest the tremendous weight of humanity cause the building to collapse. Physical aspects of the housing problem became so serious that in 1931 the authorities condemned the quarters as a fire hazard.

In the fall of 1930 the Board of Education announced that the Lincoln School was to be closed. It was like a bomb exploding in the neighborhood. This was a small school in which were teachers who understood the peculiar problems of the neighborhood and who had the patience to realize that education was not merely the routine of the classroom. The plan was to transport the children to larger buildings some distance away from the neighborhood. In spite of protests,

parades, and bitter antagonism, the building was torn down and one more difficulty was added to the many confronting the staff of Community House.

Unemployment reached new heights. Packing house employees were laid off. Agitators made inroads into discontented groups.

The razing of the only school in the neighborhood and the inability of the school board to provide funds for a new building left Community House the one remaining stabilizing influence in the immediate district. With the Community House building condemned, the choice lay between finding some place to move or discontinuing operations. Diligent search was made for quarters but it was without success. It was now either build or cease the Community House program. Realizing that a crisis existed, the Board of Directors faced the serious situation and appointed a building committee of six with Mrs. Arthur Sanford as chairman.

It had been a dream on the far horizon that some day Community House might have a building of its own, and \$750 had been set aside for that purpose. The building committee realized this \$750 was rather insignificant for the task which had been assigned to them, particularly in view of the fact that the rumblings of the Wall Street Crash had already been felt in the Middle-West to no small degree. However, in spite of 1932 marking one of the worst depressions in history, Miss Treglia and the building committee pushed forward undismayed into that most interesting chapter in the history of Community House, in which the ingenious scheme for financing the building was conceived and successfully executed.

The City Council was persuaded that the discontinuance of Community House would be a serious loss to the welfare of the city. Mr. Milton Perry Smith, who was head of the Department of Parks at that time, became vitally interested in the situation and in the ambitious project which the Community House Board had launched. He promised that they might count on county relief labor, which was being financed through RFC funds, to do the construction work,

if the building materials were furnished by the Community House Board.

The School Board was induced to transfer the abandoned Lincoln School site, across the street from Anderson Park, to the city which in turn gave Community House the use of the property. Ground was broken in February, 1933, but on the day following this ceremony, the bank in which the \$750 was on deposit, closed its doors! Even this blow did not daunt the enthusiasm of this determined group.

A Buy-A-Brick Campaign was organized. The city was canvassed, and in spite of depressed spirits and flat purses, the committee met with a remarkable response. Practically everybody in Sioux City knew Mary Treglia. She had been an outstanding and unusual personality in the community all her life. This Community House to most people was synonymous with Miss Treglia, and her call for help was an open sesame to all avenues which might have been closed to any ordinary individual.

Miss Treglia's fruitful ingenuity next found additional help for the new Community House project in the very disaster of the depression itself. Because of high taxes during this 1931-3 period, many of the old homes which were regarded as land marks by the pioneers, were being torn down to make way for the down town business district, or for the purpose of saving taxes. Upon the suggestion of Mary Treglia and the committee, the carved woodwork and the beautiful mahogany doors of the old Davidson home were donated to this new Community House. Exquisite iron stair railings and fireplace fixtures from the old Jandt home were donated in addition to marble without end from the Iowa building, which had stood on one of Sioux City's main corners for generations, but now was being demolished. Lumber, brick, electric light fixtures, radiators, and plumbing from 13 razed buildings were utilized. Even old paving was crushed and mixed again to furnish concrete for the foundations and floors of the new building, destined to become a land mark of interest and beauty. Through solicitation the committee raised \$4,000 in cash and donations of building materials amounting to \$10,000.

The city architect and electrical inspector with the co-operation of the master electricians donated their services. Most of the laborers furnished by the county relief work project were from the Community House district and, although the county allotted to them a bare minimum of employment hours, their loyalty to the neighborhood and to the project was such that many hours were given without pay. With them it was a labor of love, and the enthusiasm which permeated the arduous toil of grinding and fitting marble, sanding and polishing floors, laying bricks and mixing mortar is a tribute to the importance and desirability of the project. Thus the building valued at \$70,000 today was constructed with an actual cash outlay of \$4,500 on the part of the Board.

Although the building was still incomplete, Community House moved into the new building in the early spring of 1934, before all the walls had been plastered. Night School met in the lobby and those who were studying for their citizenship examinations sat around on the carpenters' benches and discussed the possible questions which might be asked by the examining judge. It was necessary for Miss Treglia and Miss Kinkaid to wear heavy coats while they carried on their work during the next few months until the heating unit was installed.

These months of finishing the interior of the building were full of creative satisfaction. Jack McKelvie deserves much credit for his plan of decoration which was full of color and warmth and beauty. The woodwork in the lobby was painted a lovely vivid blue. The woodwork in the library and the series of class rooms on the west side of the building was painted a copper colored red. Louise Ashley, who had charge of the art classes, painted stars on the floors of the Americanization class rooms and designed the tie-backs for the curtains on which she painted the emblems of the nations. In the library she painted the symbols of the arts. The staff room stressed the color and design of peasant art.

In the spring of 1934, Mrs. Ford, who had served as President of the Board since 1925, died. It was a great blow to the staff, but it gave some comfort to those who mourned her passing that she had lived to see her dream of a new building

realized. All who had worked with her may be forgiven for asking in their helplessness why she had to lay down her work so soon after seeing her vision materialize. A beautiful bronze memorial tablet has been placed on the wall in the foyer as a tribute to her unselfish and loyal unceasing service to Community House.

Mrs. Milchrist was persuaded to take the presidency again and served two years. Mrs. Arthur Sanford, who had proved her sincere devotion to Community House as a member of the Board and as chairman of the building committee, was the next elected president. Because of her philosophy of life and her willingness to help in every way in which she felt she could serve, Mrs. Sanford is recognized as an invaluable personality in the progress of Community House.

Activities were going in full swing by May. The gymnasium floor was laid and it was hoped that the gym would serve as a recreational center for most of the club work and would help also to relieve the congestion which Community House has always felt in its work. When everything looked bright and promising and the Men's Club had just finished sanding the new floor, the June flood of 1934 came in all its fury. The water surrounded the House like a lake and touched the four foot level on the walls. The newly sanded floor bulged so that the boards could be seen sticking up through the water. When the waters receded, the gym presented the most unpleasant and saddest picture one could imagine. For days the stench was almost unbearable. Men from the city carried out all the flooring that had been laid such a short time ago.

The flood episode was a dramatic epoch in the history of Community House. Early in the morning of June 7, 1934, Miss Treglia began to receive frantic calls for advice and counsel. At 4:30 in the morning the House was opened as a place of refuge. All the day and night of the 7th Community House was completely marooned. Miss Treglia and Miss Kinkaid and those 40 families who had brought what belongings they could salvage into Community House stood helplessly by and watched the water rise and ruthlessly destroy things that represented years of sacrifice and materials that

were a source of pride to those who owned them. Meals were prepared for refugees over the one electric plate which the Community House possessed, since there was no gas.

During their emergency set-up, the Red Cross established their office in the Community House building. The Health Department set up headquarters in Community House as the waters went down and gave 2,000 inoculations for typhoid fever. Community House itself distributed clothing during the flood to 265 persons. Community House also assisted the Red Cross with its case work and distribution of chloride of lime.

After the catastrophe of 1934, Miss Treglia was determined that Community House should take up the fight to secure help in controlling the flood situation in the Floyd Valley and to remedy an evil which almost annually brought heavy losses of property and untold suffering to hundreds of people in the neighborhood. Yet the flood of 1936 found the community still unprotected from the floods.

In March, 1936, the women in the homes in the district again began to carry the canned goods from the basements and attempted to pile the furniture and bedding as high as possible in anticipation of the flood which was to follow the heavy winter snows. Community House had arranged to temporarily house the refugees up town that year away from the water and possible disease and in a building where meals could be served more satisfactorily.

The bitter feeling about the flood situation reached new heights following the disaster of 1936. The residents insisted upon some active program being instituted. Fortunately for their cause, the floods in the eastern part of the country aroused sympathy and produced action in the local situation. The WPA and the city officials worked out plans for the digging of a new channel to lead the Floyd River safely through the valley to the Missouri River. Officials of the WPA and the city appeared at monthly meetings of the residents of the neighborhood at Community House to report on the progress of the flood control plan, to answer questions, and to be impressed that the people in the district were no longer willing to meekly submit to a condition which, with

the aid of science, could be averted. It was recognized that without the impetus of Miss Treglia and Community House, the work on the river would not have progressed to such a promising degree as it has at the present time.

The later years of Community House have been as full of developments and evidences of community loyalty as were the earlier years. The Men's Club has had an interesting part in these last few years. The members are those men who helped build the building. They have taken as their project the welfare of the district. As an example of their efforts, they have presented repeated petitions to the police department to rid the neighborhood of its stigma as a red light district.

Since the inception of the government employment program, the Community House has acted as a focal point for the NYA program in Sioux City. This program is for unemployed and needy youths who receive training in various vocations. They are assigned to various projects such as: homemaking, nursery schools, puppets, library, recreation, carpentry, construction, office work, and many others. The emphasis has been on orientation, training and rehabilitation. Cepha Pasek and Raymond Fisher, both of whom are connected with the Community House activities, act as project supervisors and they deserve unstinted praise for the development of the program.

One of the dreams which Miss Treglia had had for many years was that some day a nursery school might be part of the Community House program. In 1935, Miss Isabel Robinson, then State Supervisor of Emergency Nursery Schools in Iowa, approved the unit being established in Community House. A progressive pre-school program of activities has been instituted for the 50 children in attendance in the morning and afternoon classes; and a valuable program of education in regard to formation of habits and nutrition needs has been subtly carried on with the mothers.

A Well Baby Clinic is one of the newest activities at the Community House. This work was originally started in the old Community House in 1921, but due to inadequate space it was transferred to the Visiting Nurses headquarters in the City Hall. The Junior League is sponsoring this medical

work in the examination and care of infants of the district.

In the spring of 1934 the American Association of University Women, during the presidency of Mrs. Harry Chandler, became interested in making the library a more effective part of the Community House program. Mrs. J. W. Kindig as chairman of the project undertook the collection of books from members and friends of the AAUW. A committee of workers from the AAUW membership, under the direction of one of the staff from the Public Library, sorted and catalogued the books. The library has been regularly increased by further donations and the purchase of new books from the fund which the AAUW allotted for that purpose. Magazine subscriptions were given by interested individuals and old copies of *Fortune*, *Time*, *Reader's Digest*, etc., were donated for the racks. At present the library is served by girls from the NYA and WPA. The committee from the AAUW has charge of taking care of the new accumulation of books and the sorting over of the 3,500 volumes which are now on the shelves.

The Experimental Theatre has had an exceptional and consistent growth throughout all the history of Community House. At the present time, the theatre group has as a permanent part of their equipment a portable stage, a black cyclorama and front curtain, and a wardrobe department as well as foot, flood, border, and spot lights. At least four public productions are presented each year and are planned to appeal to varied tastes and to interest both the neighborhood audience and those who help support the project through financial aid. The group holds a meeting once each month, planning a program which is usually of an experimental nature. New plays are reviewed, exhibitions of stage make-up, presentation of one-act plays and talks on subjects relative to the theatre are included in the program. Since there is no other theatrical group in the city at the present time, of any great importance, this theatre serves a need in the community and draws talent from all parts of the city.

During all these years, Miss Treglia's sphere of influence has been widening, and Community House has been occupying a more and more important place in this part of the

country. Miss Treglia was called upon to help establish a settlement house for the colored population on the west side of Sioux City and is now acting as supervisor of the Booker T. Washington Community Center. She has served as president of the local Social Workers Club. The NYA sought her advice in establishing the government program. She is in charge of this work with unemployed youths in this district of northwest Iowa. Her ability has been recognized nationally by her appointment on committees of the National Association for the Study of Group Work, the National Conference of Social Work, and the National Institute of Immigrant Welfare Section.

Everyone who has worked with Miss Treglia has felt the impact of her personality, caught her spirit of devotion and sacrifice to a cause, and has recognized her as a unique figure who lives life to the full. In 1934 she was awarded the Service Medal as the citizen who had contributed most to the welfare of the city during the previous year. Her friendly happy disposition together with a determination to leave the part of the world where she has lived a better place has won her the respect and love of all who know her and has been responsible to a large degree for the success of Community House in Sioux City.

Much credit also is due the Community House Board, for its faith in and its work for Community House. On the Board now serve Mrs. William Milechrist, Honorary President; Mrs. Arthur Sanford, President; Mrs. J. A. Berry, First Vice President; Mrs. J. W. Kindig, Second Vice President; Mrs. Osear Ruff, Treasurer; Mrs. Harry Chandler, Secretary; Mrs. J. A. White, Corresponding Secretary; Mesdames T. A. Berry, R. H. Burton-Smith, H. H. Epperson, F. F. Faville, Fritz Fritzson, J. Q. Keeffe, J. L. Kennedy, F. A. McCornack, W. K. McGregor, J. A. Newton, C. M. Stillwill, H. Sve, J. W. Wooldrige, C. S. Van Eaton; Miss Georgia W. Lyon. An advisory Board composed of Messers Eugene Kelly, Ralph Oliver, Arthur Sanford, Milton Perry Smith, and G. F. Silknitter also serves.

In summarizing the work of Community House, the pro-

gram divides into three parts: the service—which includes all the individual case work, the recreational, and the educational. The extensive program of Community House has necessitated the employment of Miss Frances Petersen as a member of the Community House staff. She has served as a volunteer in the night school and sewing department for some time and her efficient work in the office has helped ease the load of details.

The service work may be illustrated by an excerpt from the annual report for 1936-37 of the Executive Director. "A total of 463 major cases were handled by the Community House service department this past year. Among the problems handled were the following: distribution of surplus commodities, securing a plan for the return to America of an American woman stranded in Italy, securing passports, scholarships, personal letter writing, truancy, adjusting difficulties due to eviction, making out budgets for families, general advice, hospitalizations, securing tonsilectomy, dental aid, securing old age pensions, adjusting family difficulties, giving advice on taxes and insurance, arranging wedding plans, aid in getting CCC assignments, personality adjustments, aiding Red Cross after flood, aid in securing WPA and NYA assignments, distribution of clothing, Big Brother and Sister care given as well as scores of others."

In the educational department, the Board of Education has provided a teacher for the English and Americanization classes which have grown in number and effectiveness as time has gone on. The Board of Education of the Public Schools has also furnished a teacher for the art classes and one for the nutrition class which includes housewives who are taught how to prepare a well balanced meal and how to purchase on cheap markets. The food for this class is furnished by the local Red Cross chapter.

There are 75 groups in the recreational department which meet during the course of the week. These include boys and girls athletic clubs, classes in knitting, art, creative dramatics, handcraft, and other hobbies, Girl and Boy Scout Troops, the playroom activities, the Girl Homemakers. The Alpha Sigma Club, the oldest in point of history, still leads as one of the

most effective and influential groups. These business girls meet for a dinner meeting every Monday and contribute programs of worth both from a cultural and social viewpoint. The staff takes pride in the Women of All Nations Club which has shown such unique progress and which represents one of the most firmly established and important activities in the entire program.

Some idea of the tremendous increase of the Community House program is the figure 42,774 which represents the total number of registered attendance in clubs and classes for the year 1936-7.

In such a survey as this it is regrettable that mention cannot be made of all the hundreds of men and women who have made Community House and its program possible. It is a long procession of individuals who have caught the spirit of Community House and devoted themselves in a variety of ways to its welfare and progress. Perhaps the most satisfactory experience to those who have helped in Community House since its inception is to see the youngsters who once participated in Community House activities grow up and become leaders and advisors of the clubs, the theatre, and the playrooms of the Community House which is theirs.

The history of an institution like Community House cannot be expressed in words. It is written in the lives of those who have given and received the inspiration which has been part of its contribution to the community. Comradeship, goodwill, kindness, mutual respect and unselfish service constitute the foundation upon which Community House is built. Good citizenship has been the objective of its many activities, a citizenship based on the fundamental value of the individual as a potential benefit to the community.

The eastern mail (via Burlington) due on Friday evening last was detained at the Iowa river. . . . The driver attempted to cross, but the ice gave way, and the two wheel horses were drowned—it was with great effort the other two horses and mail were saved. *Bloomington Herald*, February 26, 1841.

THE CENTENNIAL OF IOWA TERRITORY

On the twelfth day of June, 1838, President Martin Van Buren signed a congressional act providing for the establishment of the Territory of Iowa and the civil government therein "from and after July 3, 1838". This act, which set Iowa upon the highroad that led to statehood and admission into the Union eight and a half years later, will be observed throughout Iowa in the coming year by local and state organizations everywhere. In order that the significance of our territorial period may be the better recognized, and its observance be as wide spread as possible, we are reprinting in this issue the congressional act signed by President Van Buren. At this time it seems equally fitting that we should recall other well known facts concerning Iowa's development from raw uncharted prairies, its rise from military rule and Indian occupation to white settlement and civil rule, to territorial status, and the achievement of the crown of statehood.

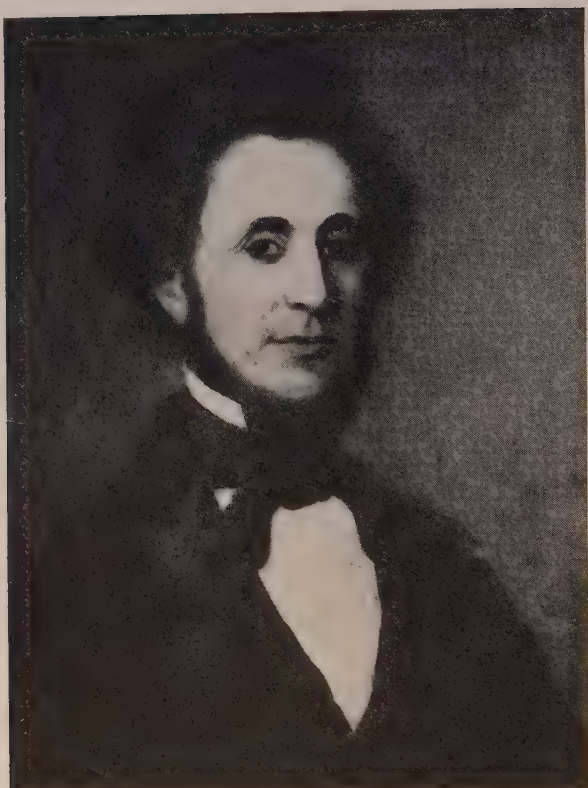
A brief review of this chain of events will best be seen in the chronology of the steps through which the sovereignty over the Iowa country passed from several foreign powers to the United States, of the steps necessary before civil government was locally obtained, and of the steps taken before the present state boundaries were acquired. Such a review should suggest that although possessing sovereignty, questions of Indian title and white settlement remained to perplex and harass the government, that federal jurisdiction and was not always synonymous with white settlement, and that organized civil government did not always go hand in hand with white settlement.

The dates given below are those furnished by Mr. C. C. Stiles, superintendent of the Public Archives Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department from his long familiarity with Iowa records and Iowa authorities.

1682—Cavalier Robert de La Salle took possession of the entire Mississippi Valley for France, and named it Louisiana.

1762—France ceded the Louisiana territory to Spain by the secret treaty of November 3, 1762.

- 1800—Spain ceded Louisiana to France by the secret treaty of San Ildefonso, October 1, 1800.
- 1803—United States purchased Louisiana from France. Treaty signed April 30, 1803, ratified October 19, 1803.
Louisiana Purchase governed by presidential decree. October 31, 1803.
- 1804—District of Louisiana established and placed under the jurisdiction of the governor and judges of Indiana Territory, March 26, 1804.
Sauk and Fox Indians cede land in Missouri, Wisconsin, and Illinois to the United States, in return receive sole right of occupation. November 3, 1804.
- 1805—Territory of Louisiana established, included Iowa country. July 4, 1805.
- 1812—Territory of Missouri established, December 7, 1812. Included Iowa country.
- 1821-1834—Missouri admitted into the Union, August 10, 1821. Iowa without the jurisdiction of civil laws from August 10, 1821 until June 28, 1834.
- 1833—Sauk and Fox Indians cede title and right of white settlement in area west of the Mississippi known as the "Black Hawk Purchase." Open to settlement June 1, 1833. 400 square miles reserved on the lower banks of the Iowa river for Keokuk's reservation. Treaty of September 21, 1832, closing the Black Hawk War, ratified February 13, 1833.
- 1834—Iowa country made a part of Michigan Territory giving it the protection of the civil law courts. June 28, 1834.
Half-breed tract opened to white settlement by the act of Congress granting half-breeds title in fee simple. June 30, 1834.
First local civil government organized by the creation of Des Moines and Dubuque counties, September 6, 1834.
- 1836—Iowa country made a part of Wisconsin Territory on its establishment on July 3, 1836.
- 1837—Keokuk's reservation ceded to the United States with right of white settlement. Treaty of September 28, 1836, ratified February 27, 1837. Amended treaty ratified December 13, 1837.
- 1838—Sauk and Fox Indians cede 1,250,000 acres adjoining the original purchase (treaty of 1832), to the United States for white settlement. Treaty of October 21, 1837, ratified February 21, 1838.
Sauk and Fox of the Missouri cede to the United States all right and title to land between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, held by right of six different treaties. Treaty of October 21, 1837, ratified February 21, 1838.
Winnebagoes cede all right to occupy the Neutral Ground (treaty of September 15, 1832) for twenty miles from the Mississippi boundaries, agree to but a temporary occupation of the western



An Early Portrait of
GEORGE WALLACE JONES

April 12, 1804—July 22, 1896

Territorial Delegate from Michigan 1835-1836

Territorial Delegate from Wisconsin 1836-1838

U. S. Senator from Iowa 1848-1859

Minister to Bogota (Columbia) 1859-1861

portion. Treaty of November 1, 1837, ratified June 15, 1838. Ioway Indians cede all rights to territory claimed in treaty of July 15, 1830. Treaty of November 23, 1837, ratified February 21, 1838.

Sioux (Yancton band), cede all rights to land held by treaty of July 15, 1830. Treaty of October 21, 1831, ratified February 21, 1838.

Iowa-Missouri boundary line enters a long history of official dispute, settled only on January 3, 1838.

- 1839—Ioway Indians cede all right and title to land between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Treaty of October 19, 1838, ratified March 2, 1839.
Eastern boundary, Mississippi river channels, set by Congress, March 3, 1839.
- 1843—Sauk and Fox cede all rights and title to land between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, retaining the right to occupy the western portion for three years. Treaty of October 11, 1842, ratified March 23, 1843.
- 1845—Admission of Iowa into the Union provided for, with area but half of that of the present state. March 3, 1845.
- 1846—The Pottawatomie Nation (Chippewas, Ottowas, and three bands of Pottawatomes) cede all rights to land between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Treaty of June 5 and 17, 1846, ratified July 23, 1846.
Present boundaries of Iowa agreed to by Congress, August 4, 1846.
Iowa admitted into the Union, December 28, 1846.
- 1847—Winnebagoes cede all rights to any land of the United States claimed by them, especially ceding all claim to the Neutral Ground. Treaty of October 21, 1846, ratified February 4, 1847.
- 1851—By decree of the United States Supreme Court the Iowa-Missouri boundary line dispute settled by acceptance of the General Land Office survey of the 1816 Sullivan line. January 3, 1851.
- 1853—Sioux Indians cede all rights to land in the State of Iowa. Treaty of July 23, 1851, ratified February 24, 1853.
Sioux (other bands), cede all rights to lands claimed in the State of Iowa. Treaty of Aug. 5, 1851, ratified Feb. 24, 1853.

AN ACT to divide the Territory of Wisconsin, and to establish the Territorial Government of Iowa.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,
That, from and after the third day of July next, all that part of the present Territory of Wisconsin which lies west of the Mississippi river, and west of a line drawn due north from the head waters or sources of the Mississippi to the territorial line, shall, for the purposes of temporary government, be and constitute a separate territorial government, by the name of Iowa; and that, from and after the said third day of July next, the present territorial government of Wisconsin shall extend only to that part of the present Territory of Wisconsin which lies east of the Mississippi river. And after the said third day of July next, all power and authority of the government of Wisconsin, in and over the territory hereby con-

stituted, shall cease: *Provided*, That nothing in this act contained, shall be construed to impair the rights of person or property now appertaining to any Indians within the said Territory, so long as such rights shall remain unextinguished by treaty between the United States and such Indians, or to impair the obligations of any treaty now existing between the United States and such Indians, or to impair or anywise to affect the authority of the government of the United States to make any regulations respecting such Indians, their lands, property, or other rights, by treaty, or law, or otherwise, which it would have been competent to the government to make if this act had never been passed: *Provided*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to inhibit the government of the United States from dividing the territory hereby established into one or more other territories, in such manner, and at such times, as Congress shall, in its discretion, deem convenient and proper, or from attaching any portion of said Territory to any other State or Territory of the United States.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Executive power and authority in and over the said Territory of Iowa, shall be vested in a Governor, who shall hold his office for three years, unless sooner removed by the President of the United States. The governor shall reside within the said Territory, shall be commander-in-chief of the militia thereof, shall perform the duties and receive the emoluments of superintendent of Indian affairs, and shall approve of all laws passed by the Legislative Assembly, before they shall take effect; he may grant pardons for offenses against the laws of the said Territory, and reprieves for offences against the law of the United States, until the decision of the President can be made known thereon: he shall commission all officers who shall be appointed to office under the laws of the said Territory, and shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be a secretary of the said Territory, who shall reside therein, and hold his office for four years, unless sooner removed by the President of the United States; he shall record and preserve

all the laws and proceedings of the Legislative Assembly hereinafter constituted, and all the acts and proceedings of the governor in his executive department; he shall transmit one copy of the laws and one copy of the executive proceedings, on or before the first Monday in December in each year, to the President of the United States; and, at the same time, two copies of the laws to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, for the use of Congress. And in case of the death, removal, resignation, or necessary absence of the governor from the Territory, the secretary shall have, and he is hereby authorized and required to execute and perform all the powers and duties of the governor during such vacancy or necessary absence, or until another governor shall be duly appointed to fill such vacancy.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the legislative power shall be vested in the governor and a legislative assembly. The legislative assembly shall consist of a Council and House of Representatives. The Council shall consist of thirteen members, having the qualifications of voters as hereinafter prescribed, whose term of service shall continue two years. The House of Representatives shall consist of twenty-six members possessing the same qualifications as prescribed for the members of the Council, and whose term of service shall continue one year. An apportionment shall be made, as nearly equal as practicable, among the several counties, for the election of the Council and Representatives, giving to each section of the Territory representation in the ratio of its population, Indians excepted, as nearly as may be. And the said members of the Council and House of Representatives shall reside in, and be inhabitants of the district for which they may be elected. Previous to the first election, the governor of the Territory shall cause the census or enumeration of the inhabitants of the several counties in the Territory, to be taken and made by the sheriffs of the said counties respectively, unless the same shall have been taken within three months previous to the third day of July next, and returns thereof made by said sheriffs to the governor. The first election shall be held at such time and place, and be conducted

in such manner as the governor shall appoint and direct; and he shall, at the same time, declare the number of members of the Council and House of Representatives to which each of the counties or districts are entitled under this act. The number of persons authorized to be elected having the greatest number of votes in each of the said counties or districts for the Council, shall be declared by the said governor to be duly elected to the said Council; and the person or persons having the greatest number of votes for the House of Representatives, equal to the number to which each county may be entitled, shall also be declared by the governor to be duly elected: *Provided*, the governor shall order a new election when there is a tie between two or more persons voted for, to supply the vacancy made by such tie. And the persons thus elected to the legislative assembly shall meet at such place and on such day as he shall appoint; but thereafter, the time, place and manner of holding and conducting all elections by the people, and apportioning the representation in the several counties to the Council and House of Representatives, according to population, shall be prescribed by law, as well as the day of the annual commencement of the session of the said legislative assembly; but no session, in any year, shall exceed the term of seventy-five days.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That every free white male citizen of the United States, above the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been an inhabitant of said Territory at the time of its organization, shall be entitled to vote at the first election and shall be eligible to any office within the said Territory; but the qualifications, of voters, at all subsequent elections, shall be such as shall be determined by the legislative assembly; *Provided*, that the right of suffrage shall be exercised only by citizens of the United States.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the legislative power of the Territory shall extend to all rightful subjects of legislation; but no law shall be passed interfering with the primary disposal of the soil; no tax shall be imposed upon the property of the United States; nor shall the land or other property of non-residents be taxed higher than the lands or other property of residents. All the laws of the governor and legislative assembly shall be submitted to, and if disapproved

by the Congress of the United States, the same shall be null and of no effect.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That all township officers, and all county officers, except judicial officers, justices of the peace, sheriffs, and clerks of courts, shall be elected by the people, in such manner as is now prescribed by the laws of the Territory of Wisconsin, or as may, after the first election, be provided by the governor and legislative assembly of Iowa Territory. The governor shall nominate, and, by and with the advice and consent of the legislative council, shall appoint all judicial officers, justices of the peace, sheriffs, and all militia officers, except those of the staff, and all civil officers not herein provided for. Vacancies occurring in the recess of the Council, shall be filled by appointments from the governor, which shall expire at the end of the next session of the legislative assembly; but the said governor may appoint, in the first instance, the aforesaid officers, who shall hold their offices until the end of the next session of the said legislative assembly.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That no member of the legislative assembly shall hold, or be appointed to, any office created, or the salary or emoluments of which shall have been increased whilst he was a member, during the term for which he shall have been elected, and for one year after the expiration of such term, and no person holding a commission or appointment under the United States, or any of its officers, except as a militia officer, shall be a member of the said Council or House of Representatives, or shall hold any office under the government of the said Territory.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the judicial power of the said Territory shall be vested in a supreme court, district courts, probate courts, and in justices of the peace. The supreme court shall consist of a chief justice and two associate judges, any two of whom shall be a quorum, and who shall hold a term at the seat of government of the said Territory annually; and they shall hold their offices during the term of four years. The said Territory shall be divided into three judicial districts; and a district court or courts shall be held in each of the three districts, by one of the

judges of the supreme court, at such times and places as may be prescribed by law; and the said judges shall, after their appointment, respectively, reside in the district which shall be assigned to them. The jurisdiction of the several courts herein provided for, both appellate and original, and that of the probate courts, and of the justices of the peace, shall be as limited by law: *Provided, however,* that justices of the peace shall not have jurisdiction of any matter of controversy, when the title or boundaries of land may be in dispute, or where the debt or sum claimed exceeds fifty dollars. And the said supreme and district courts, respectively, shall possess a chancery as well as a common law jurisdiction.—Each district court shall appoint its clerk, who shall keep his office at the place where the court may be held, and the said clerks shall also be the registers in chancery; and any vacancy in said office of clerk, happening in the vacation of said court, may be filled by the judge of said district, which appointment shall continue until the next term of said court. And writs of error, bills of exception, and appeals in chancery causes, shall be allowed in all cases, from the final decisions of the said district courts to the supreme court, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law; but in no case, removed to the supreme court, shall trial by jury be allowed in said court. The supreme court may appoint its own clerk, and every clerk shall hold his office at the pleasure of the court by which he shall have been appointed. And writs of error and appeals from the final decision of the said supreme court shall be allowed and taken to the supreme court of the United States, in the same manner and under the same regulations as from the circuit courts of the United States, where the value of the property, or the amount in controversy, to be ascertained by the oath or affirmation of either party, shall exceed one thousand dollars. And each of the said district courts shall have and exercise the same jurisdiction in all cases arising under the constitution and laws of the United States, as is vested in the circuit and district courts of the United States.—And the first six days of every term of the said courts, or so much thereof as shall be necessary, shall be appropriated to the trial of causes arising under the said constitution and

laws. And writs of error and appeals from the final decisions of the said courts, in all such cases, shall be made to the supreme court of the Territory, in the same manner as in other cases. The said clerks shall receive, in all such cases, the same fees which the clerk of the district courts of Wisconsin Territory now receives for similar services.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be an attorney for the said Territory appointed, who shall continue in office four years, unless sooner removed by the president, and who shall receive the same fees and salary as the attorney of the United States for the present Territory of Wisconsin. There shall also be a marshal for the Territory appointed, who shall hold his office for four years, unless sooner removed by the president, who shall execute all process issuing from the said courts when exercising their jurisdiction as circuit and district courts of the United States. He shall perform the same duties, be subject to the same regulations and penalties, and be entitled to the same fees as the marshal of the district court of the United States for the present Territory of Wisconsin; and shall, in addition, be paid the sum of two hundred dollars annually as a compensation for extra services.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That the governor, secretary, chief justice and associate judges, attorney, and marshal, shall be nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appointed by the president of the United States. The governor and secretary, to be appointed as aforesaid, shall, before they act as such, respectively take an oath or affirmation, before some judge or justice of the peace in the existing Territory of Wisconsin, duly commissioned and qualified to administer an oath or affirmation, or before the chief justice or some associate justice of the supreme court of the United States, to support the constitution of the United States, and for the faithful discharge of the duties of their respective offices; which said oaths, when so taken, shall be certified by the person before whom the same shall have been taken, and such certificate shall be received and recorded by the said secretary among the executive proceedings. And, afterwards, the chief justice and associate judges, and all other civil officers in said Territory, before they act

as such, shall take a like oath, or affirmation, before said governor, or secretary, or some judge or justice of the territory, who may be duly commissioned and qualified, which said oath or affirmation shall be certified and transmitted, by the person taking the same, to the secretary, to be by him recorded as aforesaid; and, afterwards, the like oath or affirmation shall be taken, certified, and recorded in such manner and form as may be prescribed by law. The governor shall receive an annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars as governor, and one thousand dollars as superintendent of Indian affairs. The said chief judge and associate justices shall each receive an annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars. The secretary shall receive an annual salary of twelve hundred dollars. The said salaries shall be paid quarter yearly, at the treasury of the United States. The members of the legislative assembly shall be entitled to receive three dollars each per day, during their attendance at the session thereof; and three dollars each for every twenty miles travel in going to, and returning from the said sessions, estimated according to the nearest usually travelled route. There shall be appropriated, annually, the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars, to be expended by the governor to defray the contingent expenses of the Territory; and there shall also be appropriated annually, a sufficient sum, to be expended by the secretary of the Territory, and upon an estimate to be made by the secretary of the treasury of the United States, to defray the expenses of the legislative assembly, the printing of the laws, and other incidental expenses; and the secretary of the Territory shall annually account to the secretary of the treasury of the United States for the manner in which the aforesaid sum shall have been expended.

Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the inhabitants of the said territory shall be entitled to all the rights, privileges, and immunities heretofore granted and secured to the Territory of Wisconsin, and to its inhabitants; and the existing laws of the Territory of Wisconsin shall be extended over said Territory, so far as the same be not incompatible with the provisions of this act, subject, nevertheless, to be altered, modified or repealed by the governor and legislative assembly

of the said Territory of Iowa; and, further, the laws of the United States are hereby extended over, and shall be in force in said Territory, so far as the same, or any provision thereof, may be applicable.

Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the legislative assembly of the Territory of Iowa shall hold its first session at such time and place, in said Territory, as the governor thereof shall appoint and direct; and at said session, or as soon thereafter as may by them be deemed expedient, the said governor and legislative assembly shall proceed to locate and establish the seat of government for said Territory, at such place as they may deem eligible, which place, however, shall thereafter be subject to be changed by the governor and legislative assembly. And the sum of twenty thousand dollars, out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, is hereby granted to the said Territory of Iowa, which shall be applied, by the governor and legislative assembly thereof, to defray the expenses of erecting public buildings at the seat of government.

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That a delegate to the House of Representatives of the United States, to serve for the term of two years, may be elected by the voters qualified to elect members of the legislative assembly who shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges as have been granted to the delegates from the several territories of the United States to the said House of Representatives. The first election shall be held at such time and place or places, and be conducted in such manner as the governor shall appoint and direct. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be declared by the governor to be duly elected, and a certificate thereof shall be given to the person so elected.

Sec. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That all suits, process, and proceedings, and all indictments and informations, which shall be undetermined on the third day of July next, in the district courts of Wisconsin Territory, west of the Mississippi river, shall be transferred to be heard, tried, prosecuted and determined in the district courts hereby established, which may include the said counties.

Sec. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That all justices of the

peace, constables, sheriffs, and all other executive and judicial officers, who shall be in the office on the third day of July next, in that portion of the present Territory of Wisconsin, which will then, by this act, become the Territory of Iowa, shall be, and are hereby authorized and required to continue to exercise and perform the duties of their respective offices, as officers of the Territory of Iowa, temporarily, and until they or others shall be duly appointed to fill their places by the territorial government of Iowa, in the manner herein directed: *Provided*, That no officer shall hold or continue in office by virtue of this provision, over twelve months from the said third day of July next.

Sec. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That all causes which shall have been or may be removed from the courts held by the present Territory of Wisconsin, in the counties west of the Mississippi river, by appeal or otherwise, into the supreme court for the Territory of Wisconsin, and which shall be undetermined therein on the third day of July next, shall be certified by the clerk of the said supreme court, and transferred to the supreme court of said Territory of Iowa, there to be proceeded in to final determination, in the same manner that they might have been in the said supreme court of the Territory of Wisconsin.

Sec. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of five thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended by, and under the direction of, the Governor of said Territory of Iowa, in the purchase of a library, to be kept at the seat of government, for the accommodation of the governor, legislative assembly, judges, secretary, marshal, and attorney of said Territory, and such other persons, as the governor and legislative assembly shall direct.

Sec. 19. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the day named in this act for the organization of the Territory of Iowa, the term of the members of the Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Wisconsin shall be deemed to have expired, and an entirely new organization of the Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Wisconsin, as constituted by this act, shall take place as

follows: As soon as practicable, after the passage of this act, the governor of the Territory of Wisconsin shall apportion the thirteen members of the Council, and twenty-six members of the House of Representatives among the several counties or districts comprised within said Territory, according to their population, as nearly as may be, (Indians excepted.) The first election shall be held at such time as the governor shall appoint and direct, and shall be conducted, and returns thereof made in all respects according to the provisions of the laws of said Territory, and the governor shall declare the person having the greatest number of votes to be elected, and shall order a new election when there is a tie between two or more persons voted for, to supply the vacancy made by such tie. The persons thus elected shall meet at Madison, the seat of government, on such day as he shall appoint, but thereafter, the apportioning of the representation in the several counties, to the Council and House of Representatives, according to population, the day of their election, and the day for the commencement of the session of the legislative assembly shall be prescribed by law.

Sec. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That temporarily, and until otherwise provided by law of the legislative assembly, the governor of the Territory of Iowa may define the judicial districts of said Territory, and assign the judges who may be appointed for said Territory, to the several districts, and also appoint the time for holding courts in the several counties in each district, by proclamation to be issued by him; but the legislative assembly, at their first or any subsequent session, may organize, alter, or modify such judicial districts, and assign the judges, and alter the times of holding the courts, or any of them.

APPROVED June 12, 1838.

The first Government sale of lands lying in this county (Des Moines) took place in November 1838; the principal part of the lands however were not offered at public sale until 1839 and 1840. *Iowa Territorial Gazette and Advertiser*, September 3, 1842.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

WALKING THE SECOND MILE

Coming from a primitive state into the dawn of civilization, Man brought with him three problems: communicable disease, the maintenance and stability of his social order, and the unequal distribution of wealth, with its attendant problem, poverty.

The first of these, civilized man is beginning to conquer. The second is apparently as far from permanent solution now as it was in the dawn of history. The third also has resisted solution, but it can be conquered, at least to the extent that men and women can be taught how to live lives full of happiness, even though poor.

Thoreau said "The sun sets as beautiful from the window of the poor house as from the rich man's palace." It is often necessary, however, for those who have had better opportunities and a better heritage, to go and live with the poor and the underprivileged, if these are to learn to look for the sun, if they are to share in the happiness possible for them.

The state of Iowa is blessed in having a number of remarkable men and women, who, with diversified training, yet with equally fine qualities of soul, have both seen the need and have visioned the possibilities of the less-privileged, and who have had the added grace to spend their lives in helping others to bettered conditions and to higher ideals of living.

Among this group are two outstanding women, Flora Dunlap of Des Moines and Mary Treglia of Sioux City.

Much of what Roadside Settlement has accomplished, and is today doing, stands as a tribute to the vision and the patient kindness of Flora Dunlap. It is true that others went before, but it was her courage and her perseverance that brought to a fruition so much of the vision of what Roadside could do in the city of Des Moines.

When Roadside Settlement was established in its present location, the sentiment on the part of the southeast Des Moines

people was, "We don't want anyone coming in here and patronizing us. We are not looking for charity." Through her friendly attitude and her kindly advice, this feeling of critical hostility was quickly changed by Miss Dunlap. Soon everyone was her friend.

Miss Dunlap thought to have retired from active connection with the social welfare field some years ago, but she has been called to service many times since. Prior to her "retirement" she had served on the Des Moines School Board as the first woman ever elected to such a position in Des Moines, she also had served as a past president of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Association. Since 1924, she has served as a past president of the Des Moines Community Chest, and after 1930 as the executive secretary of the Family Social Service, also she has been the head of the women's division in Polk County in the CWA program in Iowa, a member of the Polk County Emergency Relief Commission, and has occupied an administrative position with the PWA work in Iowa.

Miss Mary Treglia has done an equally remarkable piece of work in Sioux City. She faced conditions entirely different than those faced by Miss Dunlap. The spirit of nationality is perhaps the strongest spirit that mankind has. It is the last to surrender. The traditions, customs, even the speech, of the homeland may be changed and forgotten, but the particularistic cohesive spirit of nationality survives even longer.

Through Miss Treglia's fine understanding of the good things in each of the many nationalities that make up the community she serves, she has been able to make even the spirit of nationality contribute to the making of American citizens among those who come in touch with her and Community House of Sioux City. In doing this work, Miss Treglia not only has made good American citizens, but has taught them how to live fruitful lives under the conditions of poverty to which they may be subject.

The editor is proud indeed that the history of Roadside Settlement, largely the history of Flora Dunlap's life, and the history of Community House in Sioux City, so much the work of Miss Treglia, are published in this issue of *THE ANNALS*. These are two institutions, among others, which

have contributed notably towards the control, if not the solution, of the third of those complex and vexatious problems Man brought with him into our present era.

IMMIGRATION,—SIOUX CITY AND COMMUNITY HOUSE

As Miss Hoyt points out in her article on Community House of Sioux City appearing in this issue, the Holocaust of the World War, among other things that it did, shattered rudely the comfortable illusions of many of our people when it forced on our attention the existence of certain conditions within the nation. Mention need only be made of the revelations in the matter of literacy and physical health discovered at that time to remind one of some of the disturbing conclusions to which they pointed. The most disturbing feature of these disclosures, and of surveys similar to the one made in Sioux City in 1921 by the Y. W. C. A., was the clear and unmistakable evidence they presented that these conditions, in many instances, were not of a recent origin or of a sudden growth, but had had a past of steady development, a past whose existence had been untroubled by public attention.

This was the situation disclosed by surveys of the immigration problem in many of our smaller cities removed from the more publicized centers of immigrant concentration . . . both with respect to the illusion of their non-existence and their long past.

The gradual awakening of the state to the problem of assimilating its foreign born residents is suggestively indicated in the slow advance made by the census reports in providing even an adequate description of the nature and number of this population. The first state census that tabulated more than the total of population, that of 1851 (report of 1852), took a count of the number of alien residents in the separate counties as well as of the male and female population. In this report the immigrant has significance only in so far as he was naturalized, i. e. whether he had a right to vote. With the exception of the comprehensive report of 1856 which was

patterned after the federal census, the state reports continue with the quite inadequate classification begun in 1851 until 1875, when the rapid growth of the immigrant population within the rapidly expanding state population became significant of itself. In this year a distinct and separate classification was made of the "No. of foreign born" in which all the ninety-nine counties are completely reported for the first time with respect to their foreign born residents. In 1895 the percentages of the total population represented by those of foreign birth were worked out for a comparison of the different counties and cities. In 1905 a further advance was made in providing an adequate description of the foreign population when the report tabulated the number of native born residents born of foreign parents, together with percentage figures for comparison. This classification is somewhat ambiguous, however, for whether "foreign parents" was based on one parent or both parents of foreign extraction is not certain. This ambiguity was cleared in 1915 when the category was broadened to include the number of native born of foreign or of mixed parentage. This refinement, it will be noted, was not made until well into the first quarter of the twentieth century, when centers of the origin of our immigrant population were drastically shifting, when the World War had sharpened interest in the nationalities and the origins of our 110,000,000 population. The last census taken by the state, 1925, indicates that the interest in an adequate description of the immigrant within the state had continued to develop in the ten year interval, for in that year a quite elaborate break down of the various elements of that population is made.

This rather late interest manifested in the problem presented by these strangers to American ways and customs within the state suggests that either the problem was itself late in developing, or that it was relatively unimportant during the lush years of state-growth in the last century. Perhaps the fact and influence of the immigrant population in the development of the state was so obvious and so expected that it failed to attract attention or statistical interest for that very reason . . . its obviousness.

Thus a description of the foreign population of any sector of the state suffers in the present day from the inadequacies of the early census returns. The survey made in Sioux City in 1921, however, clearly revealed that a large foreign element had long existed "unmolested" in the communal life of Sioux City. This is further attested to by the state census reports dating from 1875 and before, down to the last report in 1925. These reports show that it was the proportionately large number of immigrants that constituted Sioux City's special problem. While the earlier reports of the state census disclose interesting trends in the immigration tide, the problem revealed by the survey of Sioux City in 1921 will be seen to better advantage if our attention is directed more to the two census reports of 1915 and 1925, one taken six years before Community House was established, the other four years after.

In 1915 Woodbury County had a population of 82,315, which ranked it second among the ninety-nine counties of the state. Sioux City then had a population of 61,774, and largely because of it, Woodbury had an urban population 83% of its total. Of these 82,315, 17.8%, or 14,635, were foreign born, a figure that ranked the county fifth in the state on the basis of percentage of residents foreign born. It should be noted, however, that of the four counties ranking higher than Woodbury, neither Sioux (25.6%), Lyons (21.6%), Auduben (19.6%), nor Winnebago (18.2%) have large centers of urban population. The particular aspect of the alien problem in Woodbury County, its acuteness and full range, is more strikingly illustrated in the contrast of its number of foreign born with its rank in the matter of native born residents of foreign or of mixed parentage. In this respect Woodbury was outranked by forty-five other counties in 1915. Thus in the Woodbury County situation of 1915, the predominating factor was the immigrant himself.

The full range of the situation is still not indicated unless one notes that of the 14,635 foreign born population in the county, nine different nationalities, and others unspecified, are well represented in the following groupings made from the data of the 1915 census:

Germanic:	Scandinavian:	English:
Germany ... 2,143	Denmark ... 944	England 845
Austria 449	Norway 1,464	Canada 890
Holland 150	Sweden 2,170	Scotland 205
Switzerland.. 80		Wales 26
	4,578	
2,822		1,966
Eastern European and Slavic:	South European:	Other Groups:
Bohemia ... 75	France 47	Cen. and
Hungary ... 24	Greece 443	So. Am. 16
Russia 3,034	Italy 308	Ireland 675
	Spain 2	Japan and
3,133	800	China 10
		Other
		Asiatics .. 240
		"Others" .. 395
		1,236

Of these 14,635 foreign born, only 3,041 had been in the United States more than one and less than five years; the majority had lived in this country for considerably longer periods of time.

Further analysis of the total county population gives these figures: native born of native parents, 52% ; native born of foreign or of mixed parentage, 29.5% ; foreign born, 17.8% ; colored, .7%.

Turning from the county to Sioux City itself, the figures for 1915 show that in a population of 61,774, Sioux City had a foreign born population of 12,536, or 20.27% of the total. Its native born residents of native parents represented 49.13% of its 61,774, while the native born of foreign or of mixed parentage was 29.65%, and the colored population was .93%. However, the number and percentages of the foreign born and of those native born of foreign or of mixed parentage must be combined to obtain a true picture of the immigrant situation in Sioux City. This result gives one the arresting figures of 30,868 and of 49.6%. In other words, the *foreign element* in the population of Sioux City in 1915 outnumbered its native stock.

Six years after the state report of 1915 Community House was established. Yet already the problem facing this district

on the "lower east" side was changing, not so much in kind as in form. The terrible war years had effectually shut the sluice gates through which the immigrant flood had poured in the late years of the nineteenth century and in the early years of the twentieth. This temporary closure Congress attempted to make a matter of policy when in 1921, the first year of Community House's service to the district, it began the enactment of the first of successive measures designed to restrict the crowding millions who in years past had thronged to America as to a Haven of Promise. These two factors should be borne in mind in reading the figures of the census returns of 1925, for that the war and congressional legislation had an effect upon the complexion of the foreign population and its problem in Sioux City, in the relative quiet waters of the immigrant tide, the later figures will show.

In 1925, four years after Community House had been established, the census reports of that year reveal that Woodbury County had had an increase of 18.5% in population over 1915, ranking next to Polk both in numerical and percentage increase as well as in total population. Its urban concentration had recovered from the set-back in 1920, and had reached a high of 85%, an increase of 2% over 1915. However, among the 97,615 persons living in the county, only 11,716 were reported of foreign birth in 1925, a drop of 2,919 from the 14,635 reported in 1915. This fall represented a decline of 5.8% to an even 12% of the total population in the ten year interval. This decline served to lower Woodbury to tenth place in a percentage comparison of the ninety-nine counties of the state. Yet, save for Scott County (12.1%), as in 1915, none of the counties ranking above Woodbury in the number of foreign born were possessed of urban centers comparable to Sioux City. Other figures for this period show that 57.98% of the county population were native born of native parents, that 25.7% were native born of foreign or of mixed parentage, and 1.58% were of the colored races.

Equal in interest to the numerical changes noted in the ten year period, if not of more vital significance, were indications in the meticulous classifications of 1925 that the nature and composition of the foreign population were like-

wise changing. These changes were the result of the shift in the centers of origins of our immigrant population that set in in the first years of the present century. While this shift is somewhat obscured by the inclusive classification used in the report of 1915, the full force of this slowly gathering movement, accentuated by the World War, is all the more sharply revealed in the report of 1925, since it follows the sweeping political redistributions of racial and national minority groups brought about by that struggle. The extent and number of political boundaries this realignment involved, makes a comparison of the national stocks that made up the bulk of immigration in the two years 1915 and 1925 almost meaningless. The arbitrary grouping given below, however, may serve to show that the shifts in the foreign population noted in the country at large were also found in Woodbury County.

Germanic:	Scandinavian:	English:
Austria 138	Denmark 869	Canada 803
Germany 1,766	Norway 1,236	England 701
Holland 245	Sweden 1,441	Scotland 191
Luxembourg 55		Wales 21
Switzerland.. 84	3,546	1,716
2,288		
Eastern European and Slavic:	Southern European:	Other Groups:
Bulgaria 5	France 78	Japan and China 27
Czecho- slovakia 129	Greece 286	Cen. and So. Am. 105
Finland 9	Portugal 3	Ireland 501
Hungary 32	Spain 13	
Russia 1,736	380	633
Jugoslavia .. 5		
Lithuania ... 277		
Poland 362		
Rumania 22		
Serb 31		
2,608		

Additional evidence of the joint effect of the war and of congressional legislation is found in the record of the length of residence in this country reported by the foreign born in 1925. Of the 11,716 foreign born residents in the county,

those who had lived in the United States less than five years represented but 661 of that total; those who had been in this country between five and less than ten years added but 413 individuals more. By far the great majority of those living in Woodbury County had been in the United States at least fifteen years.

It is but natural that the trend disclosed in Woodbury County should be reflected in the report of Sioux City as well. In 1925 Sioux City boasted a 23.7% increase in population over 1915, giving it a total of 76,441 in the last report. The immigrant population, however, like that of Woodbury County, had fallen, from 12,536 to 10,395, or to but 13.39% of the total city population. Native born residents of native parents now represented 55.05% of the city, native born of foreign or of mixed parentage, 26.25%, while the colored population had increased to 2%. Despite numerical and percentage decline amounting to almost 9%, the total population of the "foreign extraction" (counting the first generation born of foreign parentage), remained between 30,000 and 32,000. This total indicated that the task of assimilating the immigrant into the normal American life of the community still remained a perplexing challenge in 1925. And complex too, when it is recalled that without drawing fine distinctions, Community House counted twenty-one different nationalities around its doors.

A sharpening of the focus on the immigrant problem existing in Sioux City may be obtained by a comparison of the fifteen cities of the first class reported in the year 1925. Here we find that Sioux City ranks but fifth in respect to the percentage of the population being native born of foreign or of mixed parentage. Dubuque with 33.73%, Davenport with 32.54%, Clinton with 31.24%, and Burlington with 28.03% all ranked higher than Sioux City. The problem that made the condition in Sioux City special among the cities of the state in 1925 as in 1915 is disclosed when these same fifteen cities are compared with respect to the percentage of the *foreign* born in their total population. Here Sioux City stands first, with Clinton, its nearest rival, .32% behind with 13.07%, and Davenport third with 12.07%.

These cities that ranked higher than Sioux City in one classification, and close behind in the other, are all Mississippi river towns which in the past had been the centers which caught the first influx of the swelling population, from the territorial days down to the first years of the twentieth century. In the years previous to 1925, and especially true of the years prior to 1915, these river cities and others among the fifteen, had rated higher than Sioux City, not alone in the matter of native born or of foreign or of mixed parentage, but in the more important classification of the actual number of immigrants themselves. Since these towns show a general decline in all aspects of their foreign population, consequent to the decline of the river as a freight artery and the rise of other means of transportation, it suggests that this may likewise be true of Sioux City. That Sioux City will soon face as the most significant problem in its foreign population, not the immigrant himself, as has been true of the past, but the problem arising out of the first generation of Americans born of foreign and mixed parentage, is unmistakably indicated in the markedly small number of recent arrivals of actual immigrants reported in the last state census.

The small number of new arrivals from foreign lands in recent years further suggests that the picture presented by the figures given here may even itself be exaggerated. From the fact that the vast majority of the foreign born in the county had lived in this country a number of years, one might argue that while it was true Sioux City's problem centered around the immigrant, it actually had to deal with the immigrant who had already been exposed to the ways and customs of American life. Although this statement of condition is undeniably true, it must be remembered that in the report of 1925, forty-two different nationalities are recorded as living in Woodbury County, which means largely living in Sioux City. Percentages in themselves are but forms useful for descriptive purposes, and should not deceive. Despite the steady decline in the percentage of the city population represented in the foreign born from 29.8% in 1885 to 13.39% in 1925, despite the decline in the number of first generation Americans born of foreign parents from 1915 to

1925, the grand total of what formed the nucleus of the problem out of which Community House arose remained in the latter year at or above the high water mark in the history of the city. Truly it was a condition and not an abstraction of a percentage figure that confronted the city in 1921. The data given here demonstrates that the condition remained in 1925, that it was of a kind and of a degree capable of becoming a dangerous festering sore in the communal life of the city, infecting the whole from its once small part.

The problem of assimilation and integration, Miss Treglia most likely will affirm, remains, in 1937, a grave one. In the long reach of future time, if the present barriers to new arrivals from abroad remain the same, the situation of and the stimulus to Community House may change, but for the present that appears securely within the realm of the distant years.

WOODBURY COUNTY

Year	County Popula- tion	Rank in State	FOREIGN BORN				No. Native Born of Foreign Parentage	
			No.	% of Pop.	Rank in State Basis		No.	%
					No.	%		
1875	8,568	64	1,322	15.4	53	34 ¹		
1885	32,289	9	7,578	23.5	7	7 ²		
1895	46,202	4	9,130	19.8	5	31 ⁵		
1905	60,859	3	10,294	16.9	3	24	18,347	30.1
1915	82,315	2	14,635	17.8	1	5	24,282	
1925	97,615	2	11,716	12.0	2	10	25,134	25.7

SIOUX CITY

Year	City Popula- tion	Rank in State	FOREIGN BORN				Nq. Native Born of Foreign Parentage	
			No.	% of Pop.	Rank of S. C. Basis		No.	%
					No.	%		
1875	4,290	16	876	20.4	13	13 ³		
1885	19,060	6	5,682	29.8	6	3 ⁴		
1895	27,371	4	6,550	24.1	4	12 ⁵		
1905	40,952	3	7,996	19.5	3	24	12,579	30.7
1915	61,774	2	12,536	20.27	1	19 ⁶	18,318	29.65
1925	76,411	2	10,395	13.39	2	22 ⁷	20,103	26.25

¹Based on 74 counties having either greater total population and/or greater foreign born population.

²Based on the number of counties having 6000 or more foreign born residents.

³Based on the 22 most populous towns—of 2500 and above.

⁴Based on all towns (11) of 10,000 plus in population.

⁵Based on all cities of 1,000 or more (Inc.).

⁶The highest population of any of the 18 cities ranking above Sioux City was 3,455.

⁷The highest population of any of the 21 cities ranking above Sioux City was 4,553.

DEPARTMENT NOTES

THE DEPARTMENT now has on exhibition on the third floor a complete display of Iowa's Geological column. Samples from every formation in the state, including all the glacial drifts, loesses, etc., were secured during the summer by E. H. Seobey of the State University of Iowa, who was employed by this department for that purpose.

The visitor will find the display of maps and charts, together with modern specimens of sea life, helpful in guiding him to a good understanding of Iowa's geological past. Previous to this the geological history of Iowa was represented in the department only by a series of fossils.

ON SUNDAY, August 29, 1937, the Iowa State Safety Council dedicated a bronze plaque to the late Mrs. Alex Miller, formerly Secretary of State, and the founder of the Iowa highway patrol system. The dedication took place during the State Fair week at the fairgrounds in Des Moines.

The plaque has been presented to this department and occupies a prominent place in the front corridor. With the dates 1871-1937 in the two upper corners, the plaque reads as follows; the quotation is from Mrs. Miller's own pen:

"The good driver observes the golden
Rule of the highway. By practicing the
Same courtesy upon the road that he
Would show a guest in his home, he is
Not only taking a long step toward
Preserving his own safety but he
Is helping to establish a code of
Ethics upon the highway which will
Herald a better day."

Presented to the State of Iowa
In memory of
Mrs. Alex Miller, Secretary of State
1932 — 1937
By the
Iowa State Safety Council
August 29, 1937

OUTSTANDING among the gifts received by the department during the past quarter were the records and materials of the Iowa Suffrage Commission, together with a case built especially for their preservation and display. Together with the bronze plaque in the state house, which was dedicated May 10, 1936, these materials, and their case, completes the memorial to the women who worked so long and so faithfully to secure equal suffrage in this state. The case, built of solid oak and weighing 1,500 pounds, is located in the Autograph Room. Similar in construction to those used for the Autograph Collection, it has a glass show-case top in which certain selected materials may be exhibited.

The materials date from the earliest document in 1854, to August 26, 1920, the latest. They consist of letters, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, insignia, and other records of the movement carried on in Iowa by women of the state for equal suffrage. In addition to the letters of the state leaders in the movement, there are also letters from famous women, leaders in the national agitation and campaign for enfranchisement, among them being letters from Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Chapman Catt. Since the latter was an Iowa woman and began her career as a "suffragette" in this state, there is an abundance of material from her, both as a state leader and as a national figure.

Included in the gift from the Suffrage Commission was a several volume history treating of the suffrage movement in the United States, as well as the program in Iowa.

The first state organization for equal suffrage, 1870, had for its president Henry O'Connor, who was then the Attorney General of the State. Amelia Bloomer was an executive officer of the state association at this same time. Among the prominent women connected with this movement in Iowa over the period from 1870 to the time of the adoption of the amendment in 1920 were the following:

Amelia Bloomer
Mrs. Mary A. Emsley Adams
Dr. Harriet Bottsford Amy
Mrs. Martha C. Callanan
Mrs. Mary J. Coggeshall

Byrd L. Damon (Mrs. Chas. W.)
Rev. Eleanor Elizabeth Gordon
Mrs. Julia Clarke Hallom (Mrs. Joseph W.)
Miss Mary Elma Hamilton
Mrs. Eliza Heaton Hunter
Mrs. Caroline A. Rice Ingham
Dr. Margaret Billingsley Mills (Mrs. F. W.)
Mrs. Martha Lavery Peck (Mrs. John F.)
Mrs. H. K. Evans
Mrs. Emily T. Phillips
Mrs. Lizzie B. Read
Mrs. Carrie C. Rutledge (Mrs. J. I.)
Rev. Mary Augusta Safford
Mrs. Rowena Edson Stevens
Mrs. Eleanor Chafin Stockman (Mrs. G. C.)
Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt
Mrs. Blanche Schnadig Wolf (Mrs. Sam J. H.)
Mrs. Anna Savory

AN ACTUAL count of the Sunday visitors at the historical building from June 20th to November 28th, inclusive, shows that during this period, exclusive of the Sunday of the State Fair week, 10,043 persons came to inspect and to view the exhibits on display. The attendance of visitors during State Fair week alone was 15,943, of which 2,312 came on Sunday. Thus the total Sunday attendance for this period was 12,355.

The holiday attendance on the four holidays, Fourth of July (celebrated on July 5), Labor Day, Armistice Day, and Thanksgiving Day, totaled 1,441. This figure, added to the record of the Sunday attendance, gives a total attendance for Sundays and holidays, from June 20th to November 28th, of 13,796. If the attendance record of the State Fair week is added to this, the grand total of 27,427 visitors to the department is obtained.

No attempt was made to count the attendance of other days in this four month period.

This attendance record is gratifying, for it shows the great interest the people of the state have in this department and the work it is trying to do.

NOTABLE DEATHS

JAMES M. PARSONS, late associate justice of the Iowa Supreme Court, died in Des Moines, December 16, 1937, following several months illness and an unsuccessful operation. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Silas Parsons, pioneer settlers of Iowa, he was born on a farm four miles southwest of Anamosa, Jones County, Iowa, October 16, 1858. With the death of his mother in 1868 he was left an orphan. In the fall of 1876 he matriculated at Iowa State College, only to transfer to Cornell College the following year, where he remained two years. In 1879 the successful defense of his interests in the estate of his father against the claims of his guardian induced him to forsake the profession of civil engineering for that of the law. Entering upon such a career in 1879, he was admitted to the state bar the succeeding year at Anamosa. In 1881 he located in Rock Rapids where he remained, serving a term as Mayor and a term as county attorney for Lyons County, until 1906, when he removed to Des Moines. For many years he was counsel for the Iowa Bankers Association. In 1934 he was successful in a candidacy for the Iowa Supreme Court. A life long Democrat, he was a recognized leader in his party.—K.E.C.

If we look back seventy-nine years over the history of Iowa we cover the span of Judge Parsons' life, for, within the borders of Iowa he was born and here he spent his entire career.

There seem to be some men who pass thru life, regardless of honors that may come to them, regardless of the positions they hold, whose title is not that used by their friends in salutation. Judge Parsons was known as "Jim" Parsons. This circumstance is complimentary, and means that honor rather than disrespect was intended.

Judge Parsons' life was lived in the best American tradition, a tradition which we all trust will for many generations continue to stand as emblematic of the aims, ideals and possibilities of this great country. We have here a poor boy, who thru his own enterprise and energy, received an education that gave him the profession which for so many years he graced so ably. He started out in life to become a civil engineer but that did not meet with his approval and he commenced the study of law in an office in southeastern Iowa. In 1880, six days after his twenty-second birthday, he was admitted to the practice of law.

In the conduct of litigation in trial courts he was tactful and courteous. His methods were direct and his presentation distinguished by candor and good humor. He was forceful, and if the occasion warranted, eloquent in argument. His practice covered the entire field of the law. It is doubtful if any man in the history of Iowa has played a more important part in the legal profession than did Judge Parsons. Fifty-six years of continuous participation in the trial of cases, criminal

and civil alike; for more than twenty years the general counsel of the Iowa Bankers Association; and finally, elevated by the people of his native State to its highest court.

Early in his career Judge Parsons affiliated with the Democratic party. He was a partisan but not one of that type who could not extend to everyone the right to differ with him upon political questions. He did not seek political office. His party had several times urged him to accept nomination for high office within the State but he desired to remain in the rank and file to fight for what he believed was right, rather than be rewarded with high office. In striking contrast to most men possessed of his extraordinary qualifications, Jim Parsons did not naturally crave the distinction of honor and leadership. He lacked the egotism of most political leaders. He was singularly free from any trace of conceit. He never lost his modest poise or was without his sense of humor for a moment. But, with all the admiration which his talents and ability commanded, Jim Parsons, the man, was even greater than Jim Parsons, the lawyer, the orator, the judge. He had a charming personality and to know him was to be his friend. He had a heart as big as his great body, and an unfailing geniality which made friends rapidly and retained them easily. He was unspoiled by any honor or distinction that came to him. He made friends and kept them. He made new friends and kept both the new friends and the old ones. How he found time for literally thousands of kindly acts which he knew would please some humble acquaintance, was the marvel of those who knew him best.

Judge Parsons was blessed far more than the average man in his splendid intelligence, and he was trebly fortunate in that for more than fifty years he enjoyed the love, affection and companionship of the girl whom he made his bride in 1883. Their life together was an inspiration to those who knew them. Mrs. Parsons had for her husband that rare understanding and sympathy that was unfailing and served as could nothing else, to smooth the rough spots that are bound to appear in any life.

In 1934 Jim Parsons was elevated by the people to the Supreme Court of this State. He appreciated the honor but with it he accepted the responsibilities. His opinions are the highest tribute that can be paid to him as a lawyer and as a judge. The bar of Iowa of today is familiar with his record, and the bar of Iowa of tomorrow will learn it as it reads and cites his opinions. He was a man of remarkable industry, energy and capability. He had a fine instinct of justice. He was a wise judge, skilled in the law, and yet, ever the human being. The record of Judge Parsons upon the Supreme Court of Iowa, which is written in the law books, will serve as a guide to those who are to follow him to carry on the all-important work he performed so ably.

JUSTICE RICHARD F. MITCHELL.

WILLIAM R. ORCHARD, newspaper editor, died at his home in Council Bluffs October 11, 1937. He was born January 5, 1867, in Green County, Iowa, the son of Philip and Mary Jane (Ford) Orchard. He began his newspaper career with the Glidden Sentinel in 1878. After a period of years elsewhere, he returned in the 1890's to become a partner, and later the sole owner, of the Glidden Graphic. In 1910 he went to Council Bluffs as editor of the Nonpareil, in which capacity he remained until his death. Mr. Orchard served as a member of the State Printing Board Commission from 1923 to 1931. He also had taken a prominent part in the hard roads program in the state.

JAY SIGMUND, poet and writer, died October 19, 1937 at Waubeck, Iowa, from injuries received in a hunting accident, burial was at Central City, Iowa. The son of Herman and Sarah Jane (Bruce) Sigmund, he was born on December 11, 1885, at Waubeck, Iowa. A resident of Cedar Rapids, where he was engaged in insurance business, Mr. Sigmund's reputation rested largely upon his varied writings in verse, drama, and the short story, having had works published almost continuously since the publication of his first book of verse, "Frescoes", in 1921. He was a member of the Midland Author's Society and of the Iowa Press and Authors' Society.

LOUIS JOSIAH LEECH, former state commander of the G. A. R., pioneer resident of Cedar County, and veteran practicing physician died at Madison, Wisconsin, September 23, 1937, from injuries received from an accident suffered while attending the national convention of the G. A. R. in that city. Burial was at West Branch. Born of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Leech, August 3, 1846, he accompanied his parents in their migration to Iowa in 1855. Throughout the Civil War he served with Company B, 2nd Iowa Cavalry. He was graduated from the Medical College of the State University in 1881, and commenced his practice in West Branch in March of 1882. As a representative of Cedar County, he served in the 29th, 30th, and 31st General Assemblies of Iowa. In 1934 he was elected state commander of the Iowa Department of the G. A. R. At the time of his death he was the last surviving member of the Civil War in Cedar County.

